

# Evolution of Modern Healthcare System

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1st Feb 2022

# 1 Introduction to Healthcare

A health system, also known as health care system or healthcare system, is the organization of people, institutions, and resources that deliver health care services to meet the health needs of target populations.

There is a wide variety of health systems around the world, with as many histories and organizational structures as there are nations. Implicitly, nations must design and develop health systems in accordance with their needs and resources, although common elements in virtually all health systems are primary healthcare and public health measures. In some countries, health system planning is distributed among market participants. In others, there is a concerted effort among governments, trade unions, charities, religious organizations, or other co-ordinated bodies to deliver planned health care services targeted to the populations they serve. However, health care planning has been described as often evolutionary rather than revolutionary. As with other social institutional structures, health systems are likely to reflect the history, culture and economics of the states in which they evolve. These peculiarities bedevil and complicate international comparisons and preclude any universal standard of performance.

## 1.1 WHO definition of Health System

The WHO defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of infirmity or disease.” This definition was developed in the wake of World War II, when the United Nations created the WHO to spark global health initiatives for individuals all over the world to achieve “the highest possible level of health”. At the time, this was considered a revolutionary way of thinking, as the definition expanded the concept of health from mere concern about the physical characteristics of a disease to a consideration of the social determinants which affect a patient’s health outcomes and quality of life.

# 2 Review

Since the earliest days of mankind, cultures around the world have sought the elusive understanding of what it means to be healthy. This definition has evolved many times, often reflecting the specific beliefs and the levels of scientific and medical understanding of that particular era. Understanding these changes provides a context for the new definition that is needed in the present age.

### **3    Anceint Healthcare System**

In ancient times, health fell largely under the influence of religion and was equivalent to gaining favor with deities. Religious healers believed that in order to achieve health, it was necessary for individuals to pray and sacrifice to the gods in order to propitiate them. In several medical papyri of ancient Egypt, headaches were attributed to the actions of demons and supernatural forces that had to be appeased in order to be cured. In the 11th to 12th century BCE, in ancient Greece, those seeking healing would make pilgrimages to the temples of offended deities in order to appease their wrath. Some would go directly to the temple of the healing god Asclepius, where prayers and sacrifices were performed in exchange for dream cures that came while patients slept. The rod of Asclepius, an international symbol of medicine, is a reminder of humanity's ancient belief that health was endowed by deities of medicine and healing .

In india the system of medicine called ayurveda was followed since ancient times as given in the discription of many anceient scripture. Even in 6th century BC, during the time of Buddha, there were a number of the hospitals to look after the handicapped and the poor. The outstanding hospitals in India at that time were those built by King Ashoka (273–232 BC). Books written by Arabian and European travellers (around AD 600) reveal that the study of medicine in India was in its bloom.

### **4    The Stage of Transition from Ancient to Modern**

With the advent of colonisation the European system of medicine(i.e.,the allopathic system)started to make its way to most part of the world.Now the anceint medicinal system like ayurveda,homeopathy,etc declined.Allopathic system was able to control the mortality rate as a result people started following it.With the development in latest technology and improved medical equipments the health infrastructure improved and the focus shifted to caring patient then thinking about the profitabiity.

### **5    Important Health care advancement of 20th and 21st century**

- Antibiotics(Penicillin)

- Insulin
- X-ray Technology
- Artificial Organs
- HIV Treatments
- Functional MRI
- Targeted therapy in Cancer Treatment
- Cyber Knife
- Bionic Prosthetics
- Nanomedicine
- 3D Printing Body Parts
- Laparoscopic Surgery
- Completion of the Human Genome Draft

## 6 Conclusion

Societal changes and scientific advances throughout history have brought about enormous improvements in the achievement of health. Today, an optimized level of “health,” whatever the definition might be, is fathomable and achievable if given unlimited resources. The problem lies in that resources are not unlimited, and are in fact disproportionately allocated between demographic groups. A value-based system, designed to provide a high quality of healthcare for the lowest cost, is a solution to the growing crisis of healthcare systems. A new definition of “health,” which incorporates a description of well-being, specific patient needs, and the organizational, valuebased system required to satisfy those needs, is now necessary.