

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH



What is Health?



- Health means our ability to remain free from diseases and injuries.
- According to WHO- “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”
- But apart from disease there are many factors that impact our health.
- Clean drinking water, pollution free environment , adequate food are some of the factors which can help us to remain healthy and disease free.
- Mental health which is often ignored is also another important factor for human beings to remain healthy.
- Governments have a responsibility for the health of their people which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures.



<p>India has the largest number of medical colleges in the world and is among the largest producers of doctors.</p> <p>Approximately more than 30,000 new doctors qualify is every year.</p>	<p>Most doctors settle in urban areas.</p> <p>People in rural areas have to travel long distances to reach a doctor. The number of doctors with respect to the population much less in rural areas.</p>
<p>Healthcare facilities have grown substantially over the years. In 1950, there were only 2,717 government hospitals in India. In 1991, there were 11,174 hospitals. In 2017, the number grew to 23,583.</p>	<p>About five lakh people die from tuberculosis every year. This number is almost unchanged since Independence!</p> <p>Almost two million cases of malaria are reported every year and this number isn't decreasing.</p>
<p>India gets a large number of medical tourists from many countries. They come for treatment in some of the hospitals in India that compare with the best in the world.</p>	<p>We are not able to provide clean drinking water to all. 21 per cent of all communicable diseases are water borne. For example, diarrhoea, worms, hepatitis, etc.</p>
<p>India is the third largest producer of medicines in the world and is also a large exporter of medicines.</p>	<p>Half of all children in India do not get adequate food to eat and are undernourished.</p>

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

- 1. Public health care system is a chain of hospitals and health care centres which is run by the government.**
- 2. They are linked together so that they cover both rural and urban areas and can also provide treatment to all kinds of problems – from common illnesses to special services.**
- 3. It has the ability to look after the health of a large section of its population scattered over hundreds of thousands of villages.**
- 4. Our country has the money, knowledge and people with experience but cannot make the necessary healthcare available to all.**

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- **At the village level there are health centres where there is usually a nurse and a village health worker.**
- **They are trained in dealing with common illnesses and work under the supervision of doctors at the Primary Health Centre (PHC)**
- **Such a centre covers many villages in a rural area. At the district level is the District Hospital that also supervises all the health centres.**



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE



- The health service is called 'public' for many reasons.
- In order to fulfil its commitment of providing healthcare to all citizens, the government has established these hospitals and health centres.
- . Also, the resources needed to run these services are obtained from the money that we, the public, pay to the government as taxes.
- One of the most important aspects of the public health system is that it is meant to provide quality health care services either free or at a low cost, so that even the poor can seek treatment.
- Another important function of public health is to take action to prevent the spread of diseases such as TB, malaria, jaundice, cholera, etc.
- This has to be organised by the government with the participation of people otherwise it is not effective.

- **According to our Constitution, it is the primary duty of the government to ensure the welfare of the people and provide health care facilities to all.**
- **The government must safeguard the Right to Life of every person.**
- **. If a hospital cannot provide timely medical treatment to a person, it means that this protection of life is not being given**
- **The Court also said that it was the duty of the government to provide the necessary health services, including treatment in emergency situations.**

PRIVATE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

- **There is a wide range of private health facilities that exist in our country. A large number of doctors run their own private clinics.**
- **Urban areas have a large number of doctors, many of them providing specialised services. There are hospitals and nursing homes that are privately owned.**
- **There are many laboratories that do tests and offer special facilities such as X-ray, ultrasound, etc. There are also shops from where we buy medicines. private health facilities are not owned or controlled by the government. Unlike the public health services, in private facilities, patients have to pay a lot of money for every service that they use.**

HEALTH CARE AND EQUALITY

- In India, we face a situation where private services are increasing but public services are not. What is then available to people are mainly private services. These are concentrated in urban areas.
- The cost of these services is rather high. Medicines are expensive. Many people cannot afford them or have to borrow money when there is an illness in the family.
- Some private services encourage incorrect practices to earn more. At times inexpensive alternatives, though available, may not be used. For example, some medical practitioners are found to prescribe superfluous medicines, injections or saline when simple medication may suffice.



- For those who are poor, every illness in the family is a cause of great anxiety and distress. What is worse is that this situation tends to happen again and again.
- Those who are poor are in the first place undernourished. These families are not eating as much as they should.
- They are not provided basic necessities like drinking water, adequate housing, clean surroundings, etc., and therefore, are more likely to fall ill. The expenses on illness make their situation even worse.



- Sometimes it is not only the lack of money that prevents people from getting proper medical treatment.
- Women, for example, are not taken to a doctor in a prompt manner. Women's health concerns are considered to be less important than the health of men in the family.

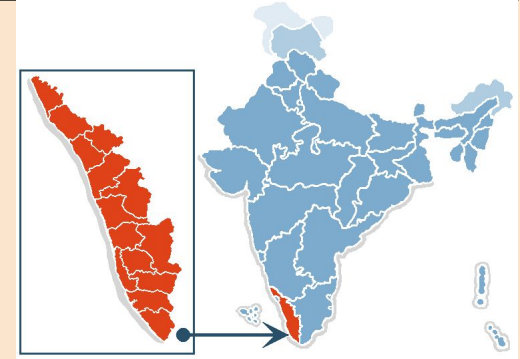
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CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



KERALA EXPERIENCE

1. In 1996, the Kerala government made some major changes in the state. Forty per cent of the entire state budget was given to panchayats.
2. They could plan and provide for their requirements. This made it possible for a village to make sure that proper planning was done for water, food, women's development and education.
3. This meant that water supply schemes were checked, the working of schools and anganwadis was ensured and specific problems of the village were taken up
4. Health centres were also improved. All of this helped to improve the situation.



Highlights of Health Policy

Enactment of
new Kerala Public
Health Act

Clinical Establishments Act
Kerala Unified Medical
Practitioners' Act

- Medical auditing in hospitals
- Grievance cell
- Clinical Protocols and Standard Treatment Guidelines
- Clinical Diagnostic Technology Council

Special focus for health needs of
tribes, transgenders, the disabled

Multidisciplinary
research units in all
medical colleges



THE COSTA RICAN APPROACH

1. **Costa Rica is considered to be one of the healthiest countries in Central America.**
2. **Several years ago, Costa Rica took a very important decision and decided not to have a Permanent Standing army. This helped the Costa Rican government to spend the money that the army would have used, on health, education and other basic needs of the people.**
3. **. The Costa Rican government believes that a country has to be healthy for its development and pays a lot of attention to the health of its people.**
4. **The Costa Rican government provides basic services and amenities to all Costa Ricans. For example, it provides safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition and housing.**

