



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Define health in broader prospective. [V. Imp.]

Answer: The common definition of health is the ability of a person to remain free of illness and injuries. But health is not only about disease. It is something more than that. Apart from disease, we need to think of other factors such as safe drinking water, clean surroundings etc. because they affect our health in various ways. If people fail to get these basic amenities of life, they will fall ill. Being active and in good spirits are also essential part of health. We also need to be without mental stress, because we cannot be healthy for a long time if we are under mental strain.

2. Mention some positive aspects of healthcare in India. [Imp.]

Answer: Some positive aspects of healthcare in India are:

- (a) India has a good number of doctors, clinics and hospitals. It is among the largest producers of doctors.
- (b) Healthcare facilities have grown substantially over the years. The number of hospitals grew from 11,174 in 1991 to 18,218 in 2000.
- (c) India gets a large number of medical tourists from several countries. They come for treatment in some of the world famous hospitals in India.
- (d) India is the fourth largest producers of medicines in the world and also a large exporter of medicines.

3. What are the negative aspects of healthcare in India? [Imp.]

Answer: The negative aspects of healthcare in India are:

- (a) Rural people face the crisis of doctors, because most doctors settle in urban areas. They have to travel long distances to reach a doctor.
- (b) About live lakh people die from tuberculosis every year. Almost two million cases of mal aria are reported every year.
- (c) Clean drinking water is not available to all. As a result poor people easily become prey to various waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea worms, hepatitis etc.
- (d) Half of all children in India do not get adequate food to eat and are undernourished.

4. Write down the main features of public health system. [V. Imp.]

Answer: The main features of public health system are:

- (a) It provides quality healthcare services either free or at a low cost so that even the poor can seek treatment.
- (b) It takes action to prevent the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, jaundice, etc. Time to time it takes up a campaign to see that mosquitoes do not breed in water-coders, roof tops etc.
- (c) This system is available in both rural and urban areas.

5. What did the court say in the case of Hakim Sheik?

Answer: The court said that the difficulty that Hakim Sheik had to face could have cost him his life. If a hospital cannot provide timely medical treatment to a person, it means that the 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. Hospitals and medical staff must fulfil their duty of providing essential treatment. As various

government hospitals refused to admit him, the State Government was asked to give Hakim Sheik the money that he had spent on his treatment.

6. How can you say that adequate healthcare is not available to all?
[V. Imp.]

Answer: We can say without any doubt that adequate healthcare is not available to all in our country. The reason is that private services are increasing but public services are not. As a result private services are mainly available to people. But these services are concentrated in urban areas and are very expensive. Poor people hardly afford them whenever there is illness in the family, they either borrow money or sell some of their possessions to pay for the expenses. Thus, medical expenses cause great hardship for the poor. Therefore, they avoid to go to a doctor unless it is very urgent. It has been found that women are not taken to a doctor in a prompt manner. Their health concerns are easily ignored. Many tribal areas have few health centres and they do not run properly.

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