

HEALTH ECONOMICS

ABSTRACT

After the outbreak of Global pandemic, health economics has become very important and essential existential tool. The trauma faced by the global community rescheduled the priorities of the governments all along. Health is no longer considered luxurious by even under developed countries. This paper extracts the meaning of health economy and explain its importance and limitations. This paper also endeavours to frame the objectives of health economy. This paper points out the instruments of health economy and the importance of coordinating them for a better healthy environment. This paper gives a bird's eye view about the role of Local, State and Central Governments towards a healthy atmosphere. This paper also highlights the pivot role played by the private sector as a health care provider. It also long for a greater number of charitable institutions in health care sector.

This paper outlays the stellar role of our pharma industry in making India a global pharmacy. This article analysis our research institutes like Serum Institute, Bharath Bio-tech and their role in vaccine success. This paper endorses and encourages the role of health insurance in health economy. Preparing the mindset of the people and its implications are explained to the cause of health economy. It concludes with a clarion call for a happy and health India.

Keywords: Health, Economy, health care, government, environment

Introduction

For long we have worried more about the health of the economy. It was the only major concern for everyone. The COVID pandemic brought an uphill down in many of our thought

processes. It woke up us for the need to worry about our health care infrastructure and health economy.

HEALTH ECONOMICS:

Health economics is a branch of economics concerned with issues related to efficiency, effectiveness, value and behavior in the production and consumption of health and healthcare. Health economics is important in determining how to improve health outcomes and lifestyle patterns through interactions between individuals, healthcare providers and clinical settings. In broad terms, health economists study the functioning of healthcare systems and health-affecting behaviors such as smoking, diabetes, and obesity.

“Health is wealth” is a great proverb resonance to our time. Public health is fundamental to any economic development model. Hence, health economy matters more. Health economy is not only about infrastructure, institution, logistics and spending, it is also about training health care professionals with dedication and determination. We may have in many other aspects of health sector, but we can proudly proclaim our health care frontline warriors outshined and came out with flying colors through pandemic. The whole nation is indebted to them. Our general public are also recognizing, respect and be responsive to our frontline health warriors to a large extent.

OBJECTIVES OF HEALTH ECONOMICS:

Its main objective is study of using the scarce resources are allotted among alternative uses for the care of sickness. To promote, maintain and improve the health and health care services.

INSTRUMENT /MECHANISM IN HEALTH ECONOMY:

1. Public health care sector
2. Private health care sector

3. Charitable institutions
4. Pharmaceutical industry
5. Advanced research and innovative technology

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SECTOR:

The role of government in influencing population health is not limited within the health sector but also by various sectors outside the health system. Government's responsibility includes the following roles:

1. To provide Health care
2. Ensure access to quality care for vulnerable population
3. Regulate health care markets
4. Support acquisition of new knowledge
5. Develop and evaluate health technologies and practices
6. Monitor health care quality
7. Inform and implement health care protocols
8. Develop the health care work force
9. Coordination among various stake holders

GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH CARE IN INDIA:

India is a developing country with huge population. In India, governance is divided into three spheres namely, Local Government, State Government, Central Government. Each of them has some specific responsibilities in health care.

Local Government: Sanitation, providing safe drinking water, running first aid centers are entrusted with local governments. No one can deny basic sanitation and safe drinking water are the bedrock of any health economy. As Local governments have failed in this sector, the central government itself is addressing these issues with massive investment. Example, the

under-ground drainage systems as part of smart city programme and tap water to every home or Nal se jal programme.

State Government: State government are entrusted with providing health care through public health centers. Providing medical education and its infrastructure comes under the purview of state government. Infrastructure expenses on this sector is shared by Central government. Providing health care to pregnant women and new born children are under the purview of state governments through their M&CH centers in rural area. Because of this strong network vaccination for COVID was made possible to a great success.

Central Government: As health is in concurrent list the responsibilities towards health is huge for central government. Monitoring, financing on research center, controlling, implementing various schemes like polio drops, vaccinations, programming comes under the purview of central government. Other than this, Central government has to run AIIMS, PG institutes, Advanced Research Institutes also the responsibility of central government. Institutions like ICMR, Drug and Pharmaceutical come under the central government. Coordinating with WHO, top research institute, State governments is also under the responsibility of the Central government. The recent national lock down and forming SOP's for COVID are showing us the effectiveness of the role of central government.

PRIVATE HEALTH CARE SECTOR:

From one room clinics, medium nursing homes to Giant corporate hospitals private sector is holding their flag high. Private hospitals have won the perception battle on cleanliness and patient care. Ordinary people flocking to private hospitals more than the government hospitals. Private health care sector is playing a key role in health care of the masses. Indian corporate hospitals are competitive and cheaper than many western countries luring many patients from abroad. Medical tourism has become a major source for our tourism sector.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS:

In India, government alone cannot meet the challenge of health care. Private health care sector is playing a crucial role but due to their constraints, profit alone their priorities. In such a scenario, philanthropist enter in to this arena with their charitable trusts. TATA Cancer Care center, Adyar Cancer Institute, Sathya Baba super specialty hospital are some examples. With these initiatives, they help unaffordable and under privileged people to get good health care. India should have more such charitable institutions as our demography requires that.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY:

Pharmaceutical industry is highly effective, competitive, compassionate one. They produce more generic medicine for the common masses and thereby have made India a global pharmacy. The Indian Government initiatives in opening people's pharmacy – Jan aushadhi for generic medicine at a very low cost is also a factor in health economy. India pharma industry supports these initiatives.

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY:

The Jaipur Artificial Leg promoted by our beloved Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam is the product of combined efforts of Health Care Equipment Limited and DRDO. Our scientist community and health industry are in continuous cooperation to upgrade our health facilities. The Serum Institute of India at Pune, Bharath Bio-tech of Hyderabad have done a stellar performance in vaccine production in India. Otherwise, if we had to be dependent on import of vaccines the economic cost would have been unmanageable. Thus, Science and Technology also plays a very important role in health economics.

FINANCING:

It is roughly 36 billion US dollars or 1.2% of our GDP is our spending for health sector. To get a high standard of health care system, India has to spend more than 5% of GDP to bridge

the gap of our existing back lock. It is fashionable and easier to say this but, practically our economic constraints will not allow us to spend such a huge amount.

HEALTH INSURANCE SECTOR:

To ease the breath of the common man suffering in health expenditure, various insurance schemes are offered by public and private companies. Medi claim insurance, health care insurance are examples. Now various State governments and Central government are also formulating and financing insurance schemes for the people. Example: States like Telengana, West Bengal, Odisha state government's insurance schemes. The Central government Ayushman Bharath is catering to vast sections of people with insurance cover financed by Central Government and various State Governments. These insurance schemes are going to play a very important role in future health economics. These are way forward requirements for the aspirational society like Indian society.

MICRO FINANCING

Every family or households have to spend money towards health expenses. In case of emergencies, the expenses are huge. The families apart from hospitalization charges, logistical expenses, day today expenses have to be met. In case of bread winner is hospitalized, the family's position become more pathetic and place a havoc in their family economy. In future, insurance sector should take care of these expenses also to give families a breather.

CONCLUSION:

Health economy is a vast subject with micro and macro implications. It includes setting up of huge hospitals, research institutes, pharma companies, para medical equipment manufacturing etc. In micro level, sanitizer, face mask and other small surgical equipment also come under health economy. Financing and implementing all will not solve every problem. The vaccine resistance in the western countries shows us the importance of

preparing mind set of the people. Fortunately, India has done a wonderful job in this. This should continue forever and prepare the mindset further towards cleanliness and hygienic habits, preventive medicine, life style adjustments. These things do not require much financial expenses but, communication expertise is a must in preparing the mind set of the people. Indian politician, administrators, intelligentsia are par excellence in communication and should do more towards creating awareness among the masses. This wealth will serve more benefits in health economy. Continuous campaign against alcohol and smoking habits should be done to prevent health care expenses. Though the above earns more revenue to the governments, but the cost to pay for them is much higher than the revenue. Hence, in health economics this campaign plays a pivotal role. Healthy India – Happy India is the dream of every one of us.

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