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RESEARCH ARTICLE

**A NEED FOR INDIA TO INVEST MORE IN THE HEALTH CARE SECTOR TO PROVIDE BETTER
HEALTH SERVICES TO ITS PEOPLE AFTER LOOKING AT THE COVID-19 CASUALTY**

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Abstract

With 75% of the health care expenditure comes from the people of India, the rest is by the government, the government spends only 1.6% of the GDP on health care sector, there are major problems in our health care sector starting from shortage of beds, to lack of doctors and nurses, the difference in the quality of treatment in the urban and rural areas as well as in private and public hospitals. The doctors even limit themselves to the private hospital because of maximum facilities, the cost of treatment is so high that half of the people die out of loan. The government during this catastrophic has provided and increased its budget for the treatment and for public health care facilities but that is not enough during at one time. Around 1.8 million people have died in the pandemic situation, in India only 2% of the people have been vaccinated. India has entered the second wave of corona virus, when it comes to rural India, there is hardly any facility available, especially for the pregnant women and their child during this COVID-19 pandemic. There is lack of medical facilities in India both rural and urban, infrastructural and human resources to cure the people. India is being dependent on other countries for import of oxygen cylinders, India is the global hotspot of COVID at present.

Keywords: health care, expenditure, covid-19, budget, GDP, vaccinated, catastrophic

Introduction

Health care system in India is very crucial. Health sector and economies of India are co-related and highly dependent on each other. If we look at our

health care system it is poorly developed compared to many other countries, the treatment provided at the urban and rural areas, the provisions provided in the private and public hospitals. The charges for treatment, availability of doctors at the public hospital, lack of human resources, equipment,

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shortage of blood, unnecessary charges and testing which people can't afford, these are very common in the Indian Health care system and the situation has enlarged after the COVID-19 pandemic, this shows how much our health care system is under developed, the government only spent 1.6% of the GDP, whereas countries like US spent 16.9% and Switzerland spent 12.2%, from 2013 to 2018 the percentage has remained the same, there has been no growth.

Coming to rural India where we hardly get any health care facilities available, people have to travel distance for their treatment where some people die in the mid-way and half of the people can't bear the huge expense of the hospital. COVID-19 shows us how poor the health care system is, there is no hospital in the rural area for treating patients even when there was no sense of COVID-19, the primary health care center which is present in many villages are almost out of the accessible areas of the villagers, we don't have doctors to treat patients, the facilities of free check-up exist but there is a lack of doctors in the area, followed by nurses. Doctors don't like to work in the rural area, they prefer working in the private hospitals where they have access to everything. We have a lack of beds per primary health care centers, there is hardly any nurse available for mother and child care in the village area, forgot about the tribal population who don't have any access. The sudden lockdown in India, focused all the migrants to go back to their home town also the migrant who had come from villages, unaware whether they are affected by the COVID-19 they went back to their villages which resulted in the spread of the virus, in this pandemic the government didn't provide any facilities for the migrant in the form of transportation, people had to walk miles and miles from one state to another to reach their home without access to water, food and shelter which also show the death of many migrants while travelling. The hospital didn't have any space to admit patients, lack of infrastructure development, COVID testing machines, kits, mask we have nothing in sufficient amount to provide people, this shows how much under developed is our health care system and the government has lagged behind in this sector which is the most important for the development of the nation.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration, I have used an amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application – as they are authentic and brilliant methods to assemble statistics from multiple appellants in a methodical and convenient way. Questions were asked to the common youth, survey, interviews – consisting of several interrogations which were dispersed among representative of each contender group.

Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporate

1. An analysis on the health care system in India.
2. Loopholes in the health care system.
3. Government expenditure on the health care system
4. COVID-19 and Indian Health care system challenges
5. How is the government handling the COVID-19 situation.

Literature Review

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic where the harsh reality of the Indian Health care system was analysed. The system was never financed in a proper manner. Health care providers and highly qualified doctors don't prefer to work in the countryside areas and in public hospitals there are absences of equipment's available for them to conduct surgeries. These doctors limit themselves to private hospitals only. Private hospitals in India are rising and providing utmost provisions which only a few can afford. The government of India only provides 33% of the expense, and the rest comes from the individual which is outrageous compared to other countries like Thailand which provides 25%, however China provides more coming down to 44%. Health care expenditure in India also contributes to people landing up in a state of poverty every year or end up taking heavy loans from the bank which they are unable to pay back. It is estimated in Urban India a person has to spend 26,000 on an average once admitted in a hospital where 57% of the urban employees earn less than 10,000 per month, The Indian health care system is the most unsuccessful in the world with only 1.2%

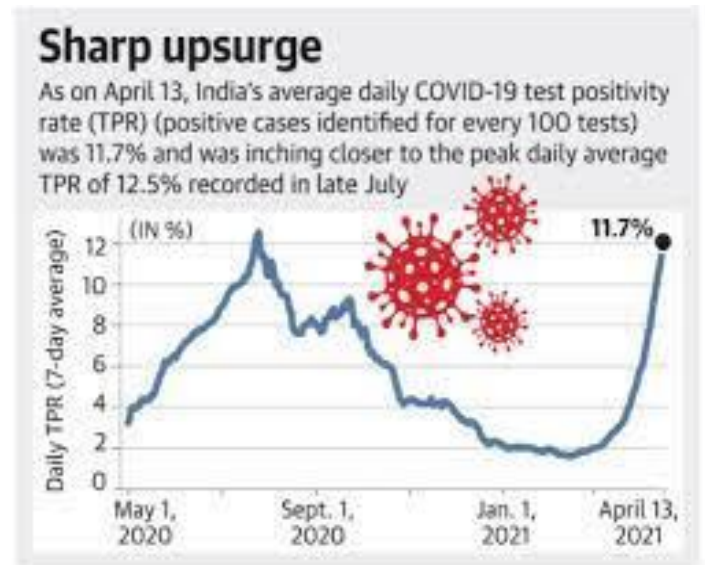
GDP is spend on health care, we have only 0.7 beds per 1000 people and only one doctor is accessible for 1700 people especially in the public hospitals.

India at present requires five lakh doctors ,if we take into account the numbers of educated doctors we can calculate there are 36 doctors for lakh populace , if we talk about nurses and midwives , there are 61 nurses and midwives to look after lakh of populace , the number can reduce down to 6 per lakh population , if we consider medical qualification/pedagogy . Absences of government attention , out of 938 861 doctors only 106145 are employed by the government of India to provide health care services to 1.2 billion population out of which 27355 work at the primary health centres in the rural areas. In India For 10,189 people there exist one government doctor 2046 people one government bed is available and for 90,343 people one state run hospital exist. People die each day due to some kind of health disease , in villages people are unaware of the communicable disease , people die due to malaria , respiratory disease like Asthma as they don't have access to medicine shops , doctors , nurses to treat them, there is lack Ambulance provisions in the village area especially during the time of COVID -19 where India is at its worst stage , where the whole world is recovering and India has entered the second wave of COVID-19, thousands of cases are being reported in hours and hundreds of people are dying per day , why is it so , why don't we have a proper health care system to treat patients.

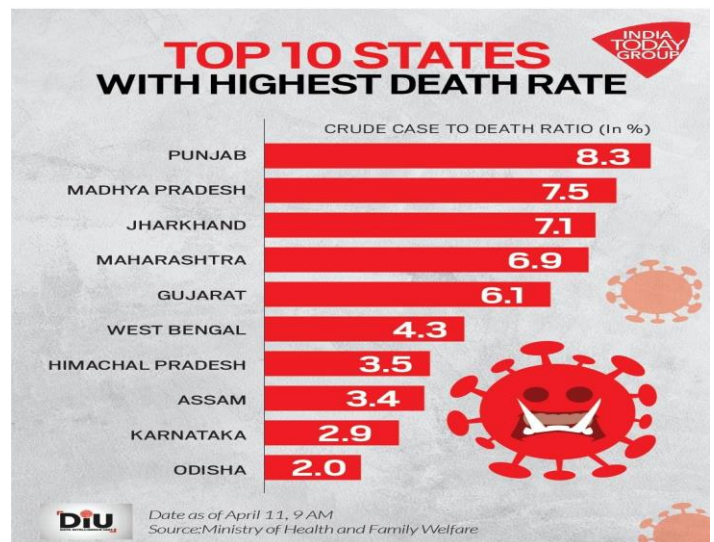
COVID-19 and Health care

3 lakh corona cases per day is a new record 21st April, 2021. However the ground reality is something else , in many states there are heavy delays in testing and in some places they have refused to do the testing ,the result is it is estimated that the actual corona virus cases is 10 to 29 times more than the reported number , there is a high probability that the 3 lakh cases per day is in reality 30 lakh cases per day .On the other hand the official number of death by COVID-19 that is being reported and the data from the crematorium about the dead bodies of the COVID-19 victims there is a difference of 5 , 10 and even 20 times at place For instance in Ahmedabad on

12th April only 20 official covid deaths were reported but a local newspaper , Sandesh has reported that is in one of the hospitals in Ahmendabad .



This one such case .On the other hand there is lack of hospital beds, drugs and medicine .India largest daily death toll to data 3689 people, only 2 % of population is vaccinated, 392, 488 new cases in one day was reported recently .India is in the midst of the second wave of COVID-19, recording on a daily basis 300,000 corona viruses cases .India total has 20. Million cases confirmed and over 226,000 deaths, this shows how poor are heath care system has been financed.



If we talk about the budget spent by most of the states in India on the health care it is estimated in 2018 Uttar Pradesh spent around 190 billion Indian rupees on the health care sector, followed by Maharashtra which ranked second with 122 billion and the lowest is Jharkhand with 31 billion rupees. Lets have a look the expenditure by state of tops 13 countries when it comes to health care sector

State	Value in billion Indian rupees for 2018
Uttar Pradesh	189.67
Maharashtra	112.25
Tami Nadu	99.76
Rajasthan	98.14
Gujarat	88.16
Madhya Pradesh	80.65
West Bengal	79.21
Andhra Pradesh	74.3
Karnataka	72.3
Kerala	68
Bihar	66.68
Delhi	59.03
Odisha	57.51

After the COVID-19, we see a rise from the government side in the expenditure in the medical, From 2021 it is 0.79 lakh core which is 26% increase from the previous year 2020 .The states have also escalated their budget by 26% in 2021, 20 states have witnessed increase in their budget towards public health care and medical year after years, except for the case of Rajasthan which saw a 5% decline and Madhya Pradesh will 1 % decline. The expenditure by both central and state government has escalated especially in FY22 it is sated to increase by 63.5% over FY21 , 35,000 crore given to the states for COVID-19 .The state government spending on health for FY22 is 5.2%.

The allocations of budget differ from state to state depending upon the population and size. Telangana has the lowest expenditure set for medical and public health care for FY22 lower to 1.8% , it was 2.4% from FY21 and 2.9% for FY20 .Assam and

Nagaland has its highest expenditure for FY22 after Delhi .

The Ministry of Health and Family welfare comprises of two departments : Department of health research and Department of Health and Family Welfare .The last union budget allocated to the union ministry of health was \$ 9.2 billion , apart from that \$1.95 billion was additionally allocated as supplementary budget in September 2020. \$1.4 billion was given for COVID-19 expenditure which was divided among the ministry of health, science and technology 350 crore and 630 crore to the rail, the union health ministry received \$ 1.23 billion to meet COVID-19 expenses.

Allocation in health sector by government to states and Union Territories	Years
\$ 16 billion	2015-16
\$20.3 billion	2016-17
\$21.7 Billion	2017-18

Several other department and Ministries work on problems related to health care such as on safe drinking water , nutrition , sanitation for instance the Ministry of AYSUH works from the stimulation of traditional medicines , Department of drinking water and sanitation, which funds Swachh Bharat Mission and National Rural Drinking water mission for the construction of toilets , Ministry of women and childe development which looks after the nutrition and Department of Pharmaceuticals .

Allocation to these department and Ministry stood at \$ 7.19 billion for the year 2020-21 and apart from that \$9.2 billion was given to the Health Ministry alone.

The government announced free vaccine programme for the poor m and provides 35,00 crore for vaccine for the year 2021-22 and the budget for health has also increased to 137% which is 2.23 lakh crore for 2021-22 .

In spite of so much money allocated for the health sector, we are at the global hotspot of COVID-19 cases in the world, there is no bed available in the

hospital, people are dying outside hospitals we have lack of oxygen cylinder, it is estimated that India will soon receive the third wave of COVID, which will be worst than the second wave, India is highly depended on other countries for the import of oxygen cylinder.

Conclusion

Health care system is paramount to the overall sustainable growth of the Nation. India health care services have lacked behind which we can see during this COVID-19 cases, the government only spend 1.6% of its GDP on Health services, when we compare the facilities provided in the urban and rural health care centers there is a vast difference starting from shortage of doctors to equipment's and in especial mother and child health care which requires immediate care. We need to escalate our budget in the health care sector, there are many states who are maximized their expenditure in the health care sector. The private hospitals have provided maximum facilities from bed to equipment's, all kinds of test for the citizens but the cost is so high that people can't bear it, whereas the public hospital which maximum people can afford, don't have the basic requirements which the government needs to look after to improve the health system of India especially in this COVID - 19 pandemic, where India has entered the second phase of Corona virus.

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