



Original Article: NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

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Health care systems are composed of individuals and organizations that aim to meet the health care needs of target populations. There are a wide variety of health care systems around the world. In some countries, the health care system planning is distributed among market participants, whereas in others, planning is made more centrally among governments, trade unions, charities, religious, or other co-ordinated bodies to deliver planned health care services targeted to the populations they serve. However, health care planning has often been evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

In terms of emergency services, although there have been isolated attempts to address emergency care in India, these could not be scaled up to cater to all sections of community, and address all kinds of emergencies. The present service levels are primitive and suffer from operational deficiencies of legal, administrative, police and fire services, accreditation of ambulances, education and training standards for paramedics, pre-hospital care etc.

In other parts of the world, a centralized emergency management system is helping save lives on a day to day basis. In Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Karnataka, Assam and

Meghalaya, the number 108 is used as the centralized Helpline for Medical, Police and Fire emergencies. 108 service has helped save over 20,000 lives and responded to 500,000 emergencies out of 10 million calls with 652 ambulances. Emergencies can happen at any time, to anyone, anywhere. In most cases, they cannot be predicted or prevented but they can be managed to minimize losses to life, health, property, order and daily life.

Health and wellness are prime concerns of the Government of India and the issue of health comes under the purview of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Since India became independent, several measures have been undertaken by the national government to improve the health of the people. Prominent among these measures are the national health programmes, which have been launched by the central government for the control/eradication of the communicable diseases, improvement of environmental sanitation, raising the standard of nutrition, control of the population and improving rural health. Various international agencies like WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, and also a number of foreign agencies like SIDA, DANIDA, NORAD and USAIDS have been providing technical and material

assistance in the implementation of these programmes.[1]

Today India is facing lots of problems like hunger, poverty, communicable and non communicable diseases. In order to tackle these, not only huge expenditure but also elaborate planning and coordination are required. Hence they have to be organized at the central or national level, though their implementation is done at state level. The National health programmes launched so far include the National AIDS Control Programme, National Cancer Control Programme, National Filaria Control Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme,

National Mental Health Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness, National Tobacco Control Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Pilot Programme on Prevention and Control of Diabetes, CVD and Stroke, Revised National TB Control Programme and Universal Immunization Programme.

References:

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