

Indian Health System

Health System

People, institutions and resources, arranged together to improve the health of the population they serve, while responding to people's legitimate expectations and protecting them against the cost of ill health[1].

Characteristics & Functions

Characteristics

- Goodness: improvement of health status
- Responsiveness: The extent to which health system meets a population's expectations of how they should be treated
- Fairness: Fairness in the distribution of resources and outcomes

Functions

- Delivering services: What services, delivered by whom and how
- Financing: Generation and allocation of funds for health systems
- Creating resources: Human resources, capital infrastructure, knowledge and technology, drugs and other consumables required to deliver services
- Stewardship: Oversight, setting the rules of the game, collating and collecting information, regulation, consumer protection

Levels of the Health System-1

National level

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- has three departments, viz. – Health, Family Welfare & Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy

State level

- State Department of Health and Family Welfare headed by Minister and with a Secretariat under the charge of secretary/Commissioner (Health and Family Welfare)

Levels of the Health System-2

District level

- District officers (DMOs and CMOs) are overall in-charge of the health and family welfare programs.
- They are responsible for implementing the programs according to policies laid down and finalized at higher levels, i.e. State and Centre.

Sub-divisional/Taluka level

- Healthcare services are rendered through the office of Assistant District Health and Family Welfare Officer who is assisted by Medical Officers of Health, Lady Medical Officers and Medical Officers of general hospital.

Community level

- One Community Health Centre (CHC) has been established for every 80,000 to 1, 20,000 population
- Provides the basic specialty services in general medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology.

Levels of the Health System-3

PHC level

- One Primary Health Centre covers about 30,000 (20,000 in hilly, desert and difficult terrains) or more population.
- Each PHC has one medical officer, two health assistants – one male and one female, and the health workers and supporting staff.
- It performs curative, preventive, promotive and family welfare services.

Sub-centre level

- Most peripheral health institutional facility is the sub-centre manned by one male and one female multi-purpose health worker.
- One sub-centre for about 5,000 populations (3,000 in hilly and desert areas and in difficult terrain).
- Department of Family Welfare is providing 100% central assistance to all the sub-centres in the country since April 2002.

Types of health care

- Primary health care is the first point of contact a person encounters with the health services.
- Secondary health care refers to those services particularly provided by hospitals
- Tertiary Health Care refers to those specialist services mostly provided by the medical profession.

Public & Private Sector

Public sector

- All health care initiatives and providers financed and managed by government are in.

Private sector

- Comprising all providers who exist outside the public sector, whether their aim is philanthropic or commercial, and whose aim is to treat or prevent disease.

Assess performance of health systems

- Responsiveness: Availability, access, acceptability and quality
- Efficiency: Value for money
- Equity: Wide range of meanings- investing on health problems of the poor; investing on increasing access to health services of vulnerable groups; narrowing the health gaps between the top and bottom deciles of population