

## THE DREADFUL IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON ECONOMY & HEALTH SECTOR

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With the rapid increase of covid 19 throughout the world, healthcare system has got shaken, not only of developing countries but developed countries have got shook tremendously as well. The rising number of deaths as well as cases has gone beyond the control of the entire health care system of the country, but emerging economies were the ones who got hit severely because of it. though government took various measures to try to curb and overcome the tragedy but they were less than sufficient to tackle a situation like this. After which the state made significant shift towards changing the fiscal and health care facilities in order to deal with the situation.

Covid-19 pandemic witnessed catastrophic instances of fail here especially in healthcare sector, failing supply chains specially for equipment's like PPE kit, mask, gloves, oxygen etc. Poly train medical staff low standards of healthcare facilities and market failures in in global health sector came to the picture during this pandemic. At the same time, it has also exposed the inadequacy of not only public healthcare sectors but also of private healthcare and has highlighted the importance of investing and strengthening the public healthcare sector.

Many long term as well as short term strategies were adopted by the government in order to deal with the situation. It made several policies in order to combat the situation by funding more and more in research and development sector in terms of health care and drugs. Since the entire healthcare sector of India with this pandemic the response which government adopted was the harmonious working of both government and private sector towards this tragic situation and the private players in the healthcare sector took a step forward to help government to support in all the ways it can towards whatever was required to deal with the situation like isolation bed equipment's testing medical staff etc. Thus, we can say that the Indian private healthcare sector contributed a lot, most private sectors made different policies to deal with covid-19 pandemic, all of these involve significant steps like adopted to prevent the infection building and preparing proper infrastructure for the treatment as well as various corona centres significant investment for preparing different facilities as well as equipping the medical staff with needed medical supplies in addition to providing for additional workforce which can work collectively to what's dealing the situation. On the other hand, various labs and hospitals witnessed a great decline in their revenue reason being delay in in elective process and medical tourism.

The government also develop various technologies and application at both centre and state level in order to manage this outbreak for example, Aarogya setu app which help in mapping tracing and self-assessing throughout the country. It basically supplemented the response

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towards managing this pandemic, it also included prompt delivery of essentials in containment zone, virtual consultation with patients monitoring and review by the authorities as well as sufficient bed management. They are trying their best to overcome this situation and striking a best strategy in order to revive the country from this unwanted situation without jeopardising the health of its citizens because when it comes to healthcare the responsibilities of the government have increased manifold many emergency response packages have been sanctioned by the government as well as the health care providers are given the utmost priority at this point of time. The government has expanded its lab testing capacity to a great extent and has engaged a network of thousands of laboratories in order to pace up the timely and early diagnosis of the suspected coronavirus cases.

To curb the widespread of this deadly disease government has taken various mandatory steps and has imposed several measures like social distancing wearing off face mask and it has shut down various places that have crowd. India is not only trying to fulfil its own domestic requirements but have also held various other countries in order to sustain this pandemic. A great investment is being done by the government in medical infrastructure specially in in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, as they were the ones who got hit by this pandemic adversely which highlighted that the healthcare system needs to be prepared for such situations specially in the cities for future. This pandemic has also increased the awareness among the people regarding the health insurance products and now more and more people are investing in the health insurance sector. Various policies of government like health for all, Ayushman Bharat, national digital health mission have paced up exceptionally.

#### Union budget 2021-22 for health sector

The government has decided to invest a whopping amount of 2238406 crores for health sector, which calculates down to 137 % as compared to the previous years. It includes allocations to different health policies of the government for example Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan arogya yojana, national health mission. The investment to research and development in healthcare sector has been increased too. Apart from this a huge amount of 35000 crores has been allocated for the vaccination of covid19. The entire focus of the government is now in strengthening the health care system specially the primary one which has been neglected from a very long time. Around 64180 cross will be allocated for the improvisation of the healthcare sector on all primary secondary and tertiary level as per the PM aatmnirbhar swasth Bharat yojana the period of 6 years. These institutional restructuring and regulatory improvements which have been proposed will hopefully help in in improving the healthcare sector of our country. So as a whole it can be seen that the investment of government has increased widely in the public healthcare sector. But success would only be possible if these initiatives will be implemented in an effective manner which will also lead to a collaborative ecosystem where both public and private healthcare providers will work together in search of desirable outcomes.

#### **ROLE OF THE STATE**

The government's approach from making a shift to being a purchase a rather than provider of healthcare has turned out to be epic failure and it can be observed well in the time of the pandemic. Despite the fact that government came of several schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan

arogya scheme the benefits were much smaller than expected as these schemes covered a smaller proportion of people. Despite the fact that the technology, facilities and availability in private hospitals were quite more as compared to the public ones, they terribly failed to facilitate medical services to all the sections of society because of the exorbitant rates and lack of insurance coverage to such kind of situation. In these circumstances the public services were the ones who helped a lot in medical care despite of being understaffed and under financed.

Therefore, this pandemic experience and failure of various government reforms makes it evident that the government should play a major role in not only regulated markets or setting the prize but in shaping the organisation and as well as financing the health care services. Since the goal of the government is universal health care its role should not only be restricted to financing but should also be in the organisation of delivery of the services so that it can do justice to its commitment of preventing exclusion and making healthcare accessible to all the sections of the society.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The pandemic has exposed plaguing problems in the Indian healthcare system like man power, lack of infrastructure, poor health management etc. We need a reboot of our healthcare system as are public healthcare system is terribly under prepared and we do not have a response mechanism for any epidemic. The investment scheme of government need to private eyes health care and the expenditure on the sector needs to increase manifold, also needs to evaluate funding of public healthcare infrastructure which needs to be improved drastically. And pa crisis specially in the healthcare sector needs to be managed and targeted as well as efficient. Vocational training needs to be given to the medical staff.

Health management and prevention of disease need to be focused more and health care insurance needs to be taken into consideration and provision should be made that more and more people are insured medically, insurance needs to be emerged as a key factor. Our country is in need of more public hospitals which focus on health management, prevention of disease and education of patient and private sector can play a secondary or supportive role and not primary as it is in current situation. A lot of measures are government need to take in order to overcome this Corona virus impact on our health care system for example making the testing facility free of cost for every citizen and this can be done with the participation of both public and private healthcare providers.

Mass level recruitment of healthcare staff needs to be done as well as various laboratories need to be set up across the country for the diagnosis purpose. Both economy and healthcare have been hit hard due to the pandemic and government needs to maintain a balance between these two in order to compensate and minimise the loss. In order to create a balance, the government needs to ensure that there are adequate protocols related to risk management are out there which in turn will generate confidence and trust among the population because majority of them are below poverty line and are totally dependent on government for aid and subsidized programs.

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