

Better Health for Everyone: Health Care in Two Worlds

by

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One Earth - Two Worlds of Health

Most of the rich countries provide best healthcare to their people though it is very expensive. However, people of rich countries are ready to pay for better healthcare at any cost. In contrast, the health care system of poor countries is below the standard where most people are suffering from common curable diseases like diarrhoea, measles, typhoid, whooping cough etc. because of contaminated water and inadequate sanitation. People in rich countries are concerned about fatal diseases like AIDS, cancer and heart diseases where as people in poor countries are still suffering from common curable diseases which could be eradicated if basic health programs could be provided.

Health Care Costs and Access in the Wealthier Countries

In both developed and developing countries, health care has become very expensive because of crisis care. Crisis Care is the emphasis on the treatment of disease after it has become serious. Therefore, less number of people can afford treatments for illness. Employer providing health insurance and publicly funded

health care are the two major health care systems which are provided in the western countries. Both systems have reduced the poor people's access to health care because of increasing health care cost. Increase in life expectancy and demand for best health care have also increased the health care cost. Therefore, crisis care must be discouraged from the both world by providing early diagnosis and prevention services.

Cost and Priorities: Meeting Health Care Needs in Poorer Countries

Poor countries are still suffering from common diseases because of contaminated water and inadequate sanitation which have been eradicated from developed countries. Good health care system is not accessible and affordable for the people of poor countries because of expensive health care cost. The practice of emphasizing treatment during crisis period is a major obstacle in the developing nations. Therefore, more emphasis should be given on early prevention than crisis care. One common problem of these both worlds is HIV/AIDS which can effectively be dealt with prevention programs. Similarly, CVD is fast becoming a problem in poor countries due to change in people's lifestyle. Poor countries still have problems in providing primary health care to their people due to the lack of funding and poor health resources.

A Focus on Bottom—line

If basic health care service is provided to people of these both worlds, many of the present health problems can be solved. On the one hand, developed nations are still unable to provide basic health care due to increase in treatment cost, whereas poor countries lack economic funding, trained doctors, nurses and are unable to implement primary health care programs effectively. Therefore, providing primary health care can be the most cost effective and sustainable solution for fighting against diseases in both rich and poor countries. Because of economic problems, poor countries will need economic and technical support for effective primary health programs from the rich countries.

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