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Programme: MA Economics

Course Title: HEALTH ECONOMICS

Course code: 22EC02b

Unit 5

India's Health Sector

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India's Health Sector Overview

- A mix of private and public healthcare providers.
- Large and diverse health challenges, including communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Urban-rural disparity in healthcare access.
- Fragmented healthcare infrastructure.
- Growing private sector participation in healthcare delivery.

Key Challenges in India's Health Sector

- Underfunding of Public Health Systems: Low public expenditure on health.
- Access to Healthcare: Urban vs rural healthcare disparities.
- Quality of Care: Variation in the quality of services across regions.
- Overburdened Government Hospitals: Limited infrastructure in public healthcare facilities.
- Non-communicable Diseases: Rising burden of lifestyle diseases.

Public Expenditure on Health in India

- Low public health spending relative to GDP.
- Government focus on addressing infectious diseases and maternal care.
- Rising healthcare costs due to increasing burden of chronic diseases.
- Public health expenditure is concentrated in urban areas.
- Government efforts to increase healthcare funding.

Trends in Public Health Expenditure

- Steady increase in government expenditure on health since 2000.
- National Health Mission (NHM) funding growth.
- Push towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Investment in preventive healthcare and vaccination programs.
- Challenges of financing healthcare amidst a large population and low tax base.

Health Insurance in India: Overview

- Health insurance protects against high medical costs.
- Government and private sector have developed different models.
- Private health insurance includes individual and family floater plans.
- Public health insurance targets economically vulnerable groups.
- Health insurance coverage is still limited compared to global standards.

Key Statistics of Health Insurance in India

- Less than 20% of the Indian population is covered by health insurance.
- Out-of-pocket expenses account for over 60% of total health expenditure.
- Government schemes like Ayushman Bharat are expanding coverage.
- Large private sector participation in health insurance.
- Focus on improving insurance penetration in rural areas.

Central Government Health Insurance Schemes

- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY): Universal health coverage scheme for low-income families.
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY): For below-poverty-line families offering hospitalization coverage.
- Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS): Covers central government employees, pensioners, and their families.
- PMJAY Expansion: Strengthening healthcare for the economically disadvantaged.
- National Health Mission (NHM): Increasing funding for health services.

State Government Health Insurance Schemes

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS): Health insurance for poor families.
- Karnataka's Arogya Karnataka: Provides medical treatment for below-poverty-line families.
- Rajasthan's Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS): Health insurance coverage for poor citizens.
- Madhya Pradesh Health Protection Scheme: Providing cashless hospitalization for low-income groups.
- Kerala's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme: A state-level initiative to provide health coverage.

Social Insurance for Healthcare of the Poor

- Social insurance schemes are essential to reduce healthcare inequalities.
- Ayushman Bharat targets poor and vulnerable populations.
- Government insurance schemes reduce out-of-pocket expenditure.
- National Food Security Act integrates health coverage with food security.
- Focus on providing financial protection to the economically disadvantaged.

Health Financing Models for the Poor

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): Leveraging both sectors for better health access.
- Community Health Insurance Models: For collective risk-pooling.
- Subsidized Health Insurance Premiums: For the poor under government schemes.
- Microfinance and Health Micro-insurance: Small-scale insurance models for underserved populations.
- Cashless Hospitalization: Ensuring that insurance beneficiaries receive medical care without upfront payments.

Need for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India

- UHC would provide affordable healthcare to all Indians.
- Reduces financial barriers to accessing healthcare services.
- Aims to reduce inequality in healthcare access, especially for rural and poor populations.
- Ensures that everyone, regardless of income, can access quality healthcare.
- Significant government push to implement UHC under Ayushman Bharat.

Barriers to Achieving UHC in India

- Low public health spending compared to global standards.
- Over-reliance on out-of-pocket expenditure.
- Limited healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas.
- Fragmented health insurance models.
- Lack of awareness about available health insurance schemes.

Key Features of Ayushman Bharat

- PMJAY Coverage: Up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization.
- Target Group: 40% of India's population identified as eligible based on socio-economic status.
- Cashless Treatment: No upfront payments for the beneficiaries.
- Access to Private and Public Hospitals: Beneficiaries can access both types of healthcare providers.
- Focus on Secondary and Tertiary Care: Specialized treatment for serious diseases.

Expansion of Ayushman Bharat

- E-Shram Portal: Registration of workers to improve healthcare access.
- Digital Health Initiatives: Use of technology to streamline healthcare delivery.
- State-Wise Implementation: States are customizing implementation to fit their needs.
- Health Infrastructure Strengthening: Expanding the number of hospitals under the scheme.
- Increased Funding: Continuous allocation of funds to improve healthcare access.

Healthcare Financing and Public Health Programs

- National Health Mission (NHM): Financing rural and urban health programs.
- National AIDS Control Organization (NACO): Funded through government resources.
- Tuberculosis Control Program: Government-funded initiatives for TB prevention.
- Immunization Programs: Ensuring universal vaccination for children.
- Sanitation Programs: Linking healthcare financing with sanitation.

Role of Insurance Companies in India's Health Sector

- Private Sector's Role: Private insurers increase the penetration of health coverage.
- Growth of corporate health insurance and health riders.
- Employer-based insurance programs.
- Insurance Coverage for Critical Illnesses: Special coverage for high-cost diseases like cancer.
- Expansion of digital insurance platforms.

Strengthening Public Health Insurance Programs

- Simplifying the insurance registration and claims process.
- Integrating health insurance with social welfare programs.
- Improved monitoring and evaluation of insurance programs.
- Streamlining reimbursement processes for private hospitals under government schemes.
- Expanding the role of community health workers in insurance enrolment.

Health Policy Challenges in India

- Access to Care: Disparities in health access between urban and rural areas.
- Underfunded Public Health Systems: Public healthcare expenditure is insufficient to meet rising demands.
- Fragmentation of Health Insurance: Lack of uniformity across different schemes.
- Quality of Care: Significant variation in the quality of healthcare services.
- Workforce Shortages: Shortage of trained medical personnel.

Government Initiatives to Overcome Health Sector Challenges

- Increasing Health Budget Allocation: Push for higher public spending on health.
- Strengthening Primary Healthcare: Building robust primary healthcare centres.
- Private Sector Collaboration: Public-private partnerships for improving healthcare access.
- Telemedicine Initiatives: Facilitating healthcare access in remote areas.
- Digital Health Programs: Expanding access to e-health services.

Financing for Health Policy Implementation

- Importance of sustained funding for successful health policy implementation.
- Role of international financial institutions (World Bank, WHO) in funding health programs.
- Strengthening state-level health financing.
- The need for public health bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms.
- Integrating private sector contributions for better health financing.

The Role of NGOs in Health Financing

- NGOs providing health insurance to marginalized populations.
- Community health programs funded by charitable organizations.
- Partnerships with the government to extend coverage to vulnerable groups.
- Mobilization of local resources for health projects.
- Bridging gaps in rural and remote healthcare delivery.

Conclusion

- **Increase Public Health Spending:** More government resources needed for healthcare.
- **Universal Health Coverage:** Expanding the reach of public health insurance.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Leveraging both sectors to provide efficient healthcare.

Conclusion (cont.)

- **Focus on Preventive Care:** Early interventions to reduce the burden of diseases.
- **Policy Reforms:** Ensure comprehensive health policy that addresses all sectors.