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Programme: MA Economics

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Unit 3 Health Care Policy

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Health Care Policy - Definition

- Framework for delivering health services.
- Goals: improving health outcomes, access, quality.
- Policy targets: prevention, treatment, education.
- Collaboration across governmental and non-governmental sectors.
- Health policy impacts individuals and communities.

National Health Care Policies

- Definition and structure of national health policies.
- Goals include equitable access, cost-effective care.
- Policy aims to improve health infrastructure.
- Focus on preventing and controlling diseases.
- Addressing the social determinants of health.

Global Health Care Policies

- WHO's role in shaping global health policy.
- Global agreements (e.g., Universal Health Coverage).
- International collaborations (e.g., GAVI, Global Fund).
- Focus on health equity and access to care.
- Policy interventions for global health crises (e.g., pandemics).

Types of Morbidity

- Morbidity refers to the presence of disease or ill health.
- Acute morbidity: short-term diseases like flu.
- Chronic morbidity: long-term diseases like diabetes.
- Infectious diseases vs. non-communicable diseases.
- Social and environmental factors influencing morbidity.

Kinds of Morbidity

- Infectious diseases: Malaria, tuberculosis, COVID-19.
- Non-communicable diseases: Heart disease, cancer, diabetes.
- Environmental factors: Pollution, sanitation.
- Mental health: Depression, anxiety, stress disorders.
- Emerging diseases: New infectious agents like COVID-19.

Global Objectives of Health Care Policy

- Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Reducing health inequalities globally.
- Strengthening health systems worldwide.
- Promoting prevention over treatment.
- Fostering health security and emergency preparedness.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Health

- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.
- Focus on reducing maternal mortality and preventing epidemics.
- Achieving UHC by 2030.
- Global health targets in alignment with SDGs.
- Partnerships for achieving health goals.

Components of Health Care System

- Health care infrastructure: Hospitals, clinics, laboratories.
- Human resources for health: Doctors, nurses, technicians.
- Financial resources: Funding through taxes, insurance, donations.
- Medical products and technologies: Medicines, equipment, vaccines.
- Health information systems: Monitoring and data collection.

Financing Health Care Systems

- Public vs. Private funding models.
- Health insurance systems: Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance.
- Out-of-pocket expenditure.
- International aid for health programs.
- Equity in health financing.

Impact of Health Services on Health

- Access to quality health services improves life expectancy.
- Early detection and treatment reduce disease burden.
- Preventive care programs (e.g., vaccination) improve public health.
- Reduced healthcare costs through efficient services.
- Health systems' role in disaster and emergency preparedness.

Health Workforce and Infrastructure

- Need for trained healthcare professionals.
- Adequate infrastructure for effective service delivery.
- Role of primary, secondary, and tertiary health services.
- Importance of healthcare accessibility in rural areas.
- Shortages and imbalances in the healthcare workforce.

Health Services and Equity

- Access to healthcare is a basic human right.
- Addressing health disparities based on income, race, and geography.
- Importance of equitable distribution of health services.
- Ensuring that vulnerable populations receive adequate care.
- Integrating social determinants into health policy.

Environmental Factors Affecting Health

- Air pollution: Respiratory diseases, heart conditions.
- Water quality: Diarrheal diseases, cholera.
- Climate change: Heat waves, vector-borne diseases.
- Food security: Malnutrition, obesity.
- Environmental toxins: Lead poisoning, industrial pollution.

Environmental Health Policies

- WHO guidelines on air and water quality.
- International policies on reducing carbon emissions.
- Local government initiatives for environmental health.
- Laws to reduce industrial pollutants.
- Promoting sustainable practices in health systems.

Health Policy of World Health Organization (WHO)

- WHO's mission to promote global health and well-being.
- Strengthening health systems and improving UHC.
- Policies on immunization, maternal health, and non-communicable diseases.
- WHO's role in responding to health crises like COVID-19.
- Health research and data-sharing for global health improvements.

National Health Policy (India)

- India's National Health Policy aims for Universal Health Coverage.
- Prioritizing maternal and child health.
- Strengthening the public health infrastructure.
- Improving the quality of care in rural and underserved areas.
- Policy focuses on non-communicable diseases and prevention.

Features of India's National Health Policy

- Focus on public health and preventive measures.
- Increasing public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP.
- Encouraging public-private partnerships.
- Strengthening primary health care and rural health services.
- Addressing issues of malnutrition and sanitation.

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

- Launched to address rural health inequities in India.
- Focus on improving access to healthcare in rural and remote areas.
- Expansion of health infrastructure and workforce.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Health outreach services through ASHA workers.

Achievements of NRHM

- Increase in rural health centre infrastructure.
- Improved maternal and child health statistics.
- Successful immunization campaigns.
- Expanded reach of health programs through community involvement.
- Reduction in preventable diseases in rural areas.

Health as a Social Subject

- Social determinants like education, income, and housing influence health.
- Health policies must address poverty and inequality.
- The importance of collective responsibility for public health.
- Gender, racial, and economic disparities in health access.
- Integrating social services with healthcare delivery.

Health Policy Towards COVID-19 (Global)

- Global response by WHO and countries.
- Implementation of lockdowns, travel restrictions, and social distancing.
- Vaccine development and distribution programs.
- International cooperation for equitable vaccine access.
- Strengthening health systems to prevent future outbreaks.

Health Policy Towards COVID-19 (India)

- India's response: lockdown, testing, and vaccination.
- Focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure.
- Launching the COVID-19 vaccination drive.
- Public awareness and health education campaigns.
- Challenges in rural areas and low-income groups.

Conclusion

- The importance of health policy at national and global levels.
- Key takeaways on equity, environmental health, and healthcare systems.
- On-going challenges and future directions.
- Importance of strengthening international collaborations in health.

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