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REVIEW ARTICLE

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TOWARDS GLOBAL HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

Global health deals with public health issues worldwide through an interdisciplinary approach. Global health uses nominal, feasible and ingenious measures to address complex issues and complex system. Social antecedent play a measure in distribution of health and diseases in different nations and for addressing global health challenges. It is essential to understand human ecology and social determinants of health. There is a need to have multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach to address global health challenges imperatively and successfully.

INTRODUCTION

Global health deals with public health issues worldwide through an interdisciplinary approach. Global health uses nominal, feasible and ingenious measures to address complex issues and complex system. Rio +20 conference recognized that health is an input / indicator and outcome of development. In Asia 30-50 % economic growth has been attributable to investments made in the health sector only. According to definition of Health given by WHO, health is influenced by many factors and it goes beyond health sector, it involves other actors such as culture, education, location, economic, legal forces etc, and these actors impact health in different ways. A mutual and indestructible relationship can be seen in between people and their immediate surroundings. The conditions in which people live and work clearly have an impact on their well being and on their health. For the development of any country it is evident that younger population must have good health with better nourishment then they will have better opportunity to learn and to contribute in the society at their fullest. Human Development Index (HDI) is the best measurement available to evaluate people's wellbeing. HDI includes three components: life as expressed in expectancy at birth, educational attainment and GDP per capita. Further, health inequity as a result of social factors can be observed across the nations.

Human right violation; another actor upon physical and mental health; it requires the protection of human health while implementing human rights. Thus, social antecedent play a measure in distribution of health and diseases in different nations and for addressing global health challenges, it is essential to understand human ecology and social determinants of health. There is a need to have multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach to address global health challenges operatively and successfully. According to WHO 2011, non communicable diseases account for up to two-thirds of all deaths as compared to communicable diseases which accounts one-fourth of global deaths. But this data is not very acceptable for African Continent and LMIC, where infectious diseases are still prevalent and responsible for mortality and DALYs in almost all age groups. Health Care-Associated Infections are one of the most serious adverse events that occur during healthcare delivery and need immediate global concern. Albeit, such infections can be easily reduced with frequent hand washing and use of alcohol-based hand rub. Moreover, in young children pneumonia and diarrheal diseases are still major cause of mortality. Some simple but effective interventions such as ORS, vaccines are advised to reduce these morbidities nearly 95%, but, owing to lack of access and human resources, these problems continue to be a global health challenge. A delivery platform including community based management by trained health care workers is a key to success. With the increasing burden related to HIV, health is no longer considered as expenditure rather an investment for economic growth and development.

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Exponential growth is seen in the demand of antiretroviral drugs. Additionally, control of tuberculosis is still a truncated issue in global health in spite of enormous efforts made by the Government. Maximum number of MDR TB cases is in India as only two-third of estimated cases is reported for the treatment. New screening and diagnostic tools, minimum but effective drugs are required to find TB cases and treating MDR TB cases. In addition to this, NTD also is a humanitarian challenge as it causes morbidity, disfigurement and disability. Accurate diagnostic tools and effective treatment which are affordable and deliverable to address NTDs are required. With the lapse of time new viruses like CORONA, influenza A, MERS, H7N9 with high infectious and mortality rates are emerging, causing an impact over the economy of the different nations globally. Risk Communication plays a central role in protecting people's health especially during pandemics. While exercising risk communication during outbreaks of pandemics, some essential principles like transparency and announcing needed interventions should be kept in mind.

Global Health Governance manages Global affairs, with a collective goal of health equity and disease control around the world. Global Health Governance calls different indicators, states, non-governmental and regional organizations, together to meet global health demands. Collectively three types of governance i.e., global health governance, global governance for health and governance for global health, work together with an aim to improve fundamental health of nations and people. Competing interests and fragmentation, greater commitment by countries, corporations and their foundations, reliable funding, political support and civil society are the some challenges in global health governance. European Union, (EU) also referred as "soft power" is a major contributor in global governance of global health being a political body and an international body. EU is playing an increasingly significant role in global health through a range of initiatives such as improving health, reducing inequalities, increasing protection against global threats etc.

An area of global health which deals with the relationship between health and foreign policy is known as Global Health Diplomacy. According to new Global Health Diplomacy, a country; as a diplomat has a dual responsibility to promote its country's health as well as help to improve global community too. There are three arenas of global health diplomacy which tells about the multilateral negotiations, soft power strategy and dealing in crisis situations as a bridge to peace. Humanitarian emergencies, includes natural disaster, armed conflict or food insecurity crises and result in political, social and even economic collapse. These humanitarian emergencies give rise to displaced vulnerable population which experience lack of basic needs and general protection. These emergencies also hinder the health care provision and worsen the illness. There is a need to have specific health responses to deal with the humanitarian emergency situations which ranges from the provision of essential and emergency health care services to environmental management. These health responses can be supported by coordination, strategic planning, and with standard of care during the crisis situations. While practicing humanitarian, health professional has to face ethical challenges too.

Humanitarian organizations have to take decisions while considering ethical principles and for this health professionals must get enough training on ethics. Moving towards the Global health research development and innovation policies, there is a wide gap between health care needs and supply in richer and poorer countries. Medical and technological research and development is an essential part of country's economics, but many of the pharmaceutical companies are disinclined to invest in neglected diseases, because of the poor market value. According to WHO, few of the countries don't register deaths as they lack in civil registration. World Health Assembly resolved these issues with a resolution and a report was issued stating that there should be development of RDI projects to address gaps and there must be increased coordination of RDI. Moreover, Health policies are related with trade, Intellectual Property Rights and public health and it give rise to the innovation of medical technologies. Basic aim behind this trajectory is to generate innovative medical products to improve global health outcomes. With the increased globalization, business models have been changed from patent owners to a global single supplier model. Efforts are made to change this model into multi-partner collaborations, to make the drugs more accessible especially in neglected disease cases. To produce new and improved medical products there is a need to protect IPR and to find sustainable win-win solutions which promote access and innovation in medical technology.

Health is a key component of sustainable development and there is a linkage between environment, health and sustainable development. Urbanization give rise to the health risks to the specific groups such as children, elderly and women, who have less outdoor activities. Climate alone pose numerous impacts on health. With the global warming, some climate issues like drought, flooding and vector borne diseases are increasing. Even water is very essential to sustain life among humans and animals. A very crucial aspect related to water management is waste water treatment. Majority of developing countries released industrial waste water without treatment into the water bodies, posing life threat not only on the humans but also disturbed the sea ecosystem. The food preferences of the people are shifting from grain diet to meat based diet and it will increase the demand of water for food production. With the change in eco-system, we have to be prepared for the natural disasters like floods, droughts etc.

Government has to strengthen the health system and do the advocacy to raise the awareness among people regarding climate change threats. While understanding global change, there is a need to view the interaction between animals, humans and ecosystem. And with time this interaction is becoming more complex, even new interactions are coming up in context of global health. This rapid urbanization is showing the emerging trend of infectious diseases like, SARS, Ebola, Influenza, and Corona. To deal with such situations, One-Health Approach is required, which is based on the fact that human, animals and ecosystem interactions are important for global health. Finally, while considering all the above facts related to Global Health, Interdisciplinary and Intersectorial collaboration is required to deal with all the health challenges more effectively globally.

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