

Long Answer Question

Q.1. Is adequate healthcare available to all in India?

Ans. (i) In India, private services are increasing but public services are miserable. Medicines in private sector are expensive. Poor people cannot afford these services.

(ii) Barely 20% of the population can afford expensive medicines. Many times, poor people have to borrow money or sell their possessions to pay for medical expenses.

(iii) There are poor who are undernourished and do not get basic amenities.

(iv) Gender inequality or women's health is a neglected factor in India.

Q.2. Examine the healthcare services available in India.

Ans. (i) India has the largest number of medical colleges and about 15,000 doctors qualify every year.

(ii) Hospitals have grown from 2,717 in 1950 to 18,218 in 2000.

(iii) India gets a lot of medical tourists who come to take treatment in the world-class hospitals located in our country.

(iv) India is the fourth largest producer of medicines and large exporter of medicines in the world.

(v) Most doctors like to settle in urban areas and do not like to settle in rural areas.

(vi) About 5 lakh people die from TB every year. Likewise, 2 million cases of malaria are reported every year in India.

(vii) About 21% diseases are communicable and water-borne.

(viii) Half of the Indian children are undernourished.

Q.3. Examine the Kerala experience of healthcare in India.

Ans. (i) In 1996, the Kerala government made some radical changes, so 40% of the entire state budget was given to panchayats.

(ii) Though the village could plan for water, food, women, development and education, but government also ensured that water supply schemes were checked, the working of schools and anganwadis was ensured and specific problems of the villages were taken up.

(iii) Despite improvement of health services, problems like shortage of medicine, insufficient hospital beds, shortage of doctors, etc. need to be addressed.

Q.4. What is public health service?

Ans. (i) The public health service commits healthcare services to all citizens.

(ii) Government establishes hospitals and healthcare centres.

(iii) The resources needed to run these services are obtained from public money, i.e., by public paying taxes to the government.

(iv) Further, it provides quality healthcare to take action to prevent diseases like TB, malaria, jaundice, cholera, diarrhoea, chikungunya, etc.

(v) Also, government organises effective campaigns against the spread of mosquitoes.