

A key lesson from pandemic is India needs to transform its rural healthcare infrastructure for better livelihood. Explain (200 Words)

India is a country where around 92 Crore population live in rural areas. Thus rural workforce is the key engine of India. Pandemic has hit this group hard in second wave. This taught that "Universal Health coverage" in lines of WHO norms is the need of the hour.

Data show that India requires around 29,500 Primary Health Centre (PHC) where India is short of around 3500 PHCs. This has led to weak and inequitable distribution of healthcare. There should be at least one PHC for every 10 villages.

There is a shortage in community health centres of around 1800. These ~~have~~ have led to shortage of beds being 8 bed for 10,000 population. These factors have increased the out of pocket expenditure towards private healthcare.

The lack of awareness about severity of Non Communicable Diseases has also impacted in pandemic. A study says around 70% of covid deaths are accompanied by NCD Ailments like diabetes, cardio diseases.

Better Infrastructure is Needed.

A resilient healthcare infrastructure of chain of primary health centres, community health centres with facilities like at least 30 beds, operation theatre, labour room, X Ray lab, standby generator, pathological lab etc and health insurance scheme like PM Jan Arogya Yojana could strengthen the treatment stages.

Further increase in number of medical colleges, health universities and upgradation like telehealth services will further strengthen prevention stage.

Thus "Universal health coverage" at prevention, treatment and rehabilitation must be ensured for better livelihood.