

Shankar IAS 14/05/2021

Q The consequences of pandemic have provided government of India an opportunity to make medical education a public good. Do you agree with this view. Comment.

Recent pandemic has highlighted the flaws and loopholes in the Indian Medical system. Though overall budgetary allocation of healthcare increased by 137% from the previous year.

Recent steps taken by government in healthcare sector :-

1. Those pursuing MS (Ayurveda) Shalya tantra and Shalakyta tantra are now allowed to perform a number of surgeries. Thus increasing their ambit of serving people.
2. National Medical Commission (NMC) is brought to replace MCI and bring reforms in medical education in India.
3. Clause 32 of NMC Bill provided for a license to practice at mid-level as community health provider.
4. India has about 1 doctor at 1500 population while WHO prescribes for 1:1000 ratio.
5. 40% increase in budgetary allocation to AYUSH sector. To empower the sector and increase its ambit.

Reforms required :-

1. Structural :- Committee on New Medical Colleges headed by Sri Narendra Modi approved for establishment of 75 government colleges by 2021-22, but still much is required.
2. Expert staff :- Training medical professionals in medical practices, technology collaboration with foreign countries and research.
3. Integration of secondary and tertiary healthcare providers in the main stream to ensure early detection of diseases and gearing up recovery process.

Pandemic has exposed under-prepared healthcare staff to an over-burdened situation. Situation demands for increasing budgetary allocation to healthcare sector to 2.5% of GDP from present 1% only. as it is the only way to achieve objective of Universal Health Program.