

Possible solutions to curtail long-term impact of covid-19 pandemic on healthcare scenario in India

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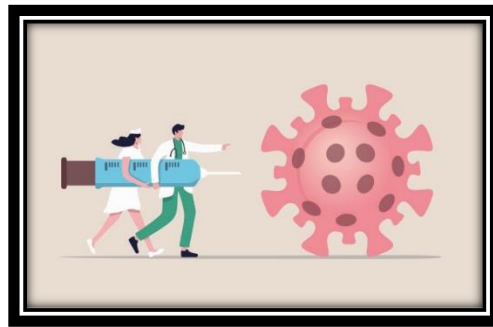
Abstract

Prevalence of infectious diseases has increased globally as humans have spread across the world. Outbreaks have been occurring frequently, but every outbreak does not reach a global pandemic level as the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has. The COVID-19 pandemic has actually displayed the total health care system all over the world as well as Índía. Due to this pandemic the demand of health care activities and health care personnel has increased in a supreme level all over the world. This pandemic had major effects on the health care, the pharmaceutical sector, and was associated with considerable impacts; which may appear in short and long-term time-horizon and need identification and appropriate planning to reduce their socio-economic burden.

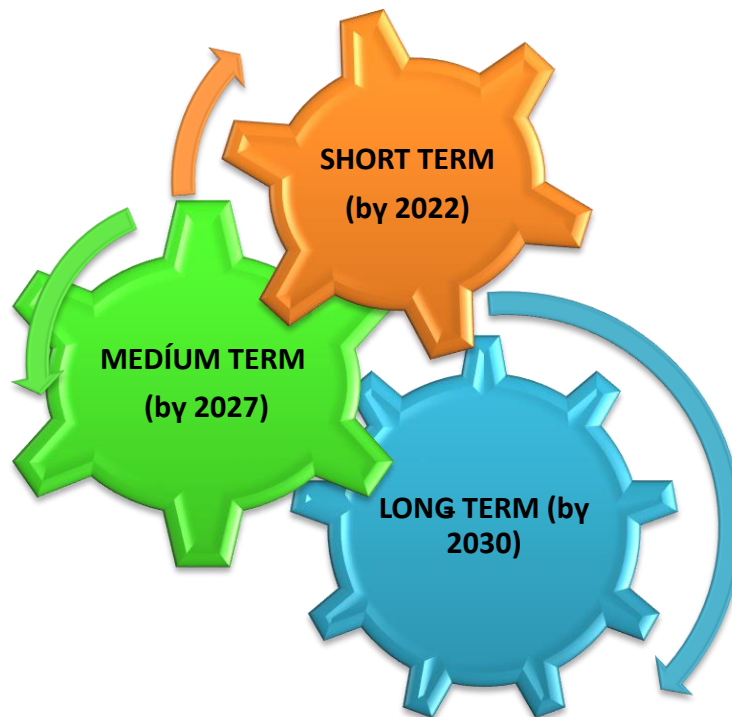
Introduction

Pandemics are large-scale outbreaks of infectious disease with high burden of morbidity and mortality over a wide geographic area and cause significant economic, social, and political disruption. Healthcare is in a state of flux and there will be financial tough times in the near term for many health systems. In Índía especially a large amount of health care professionals as well as the health care activity is required on urgent basis. as a consequence of lack of healthcare professionals and facilities a large number of activities are still untouched in our country.

Globalization, with increased global integration and travel, urbanization, and greater exploitation of the natural environment, has led to pandemics spreading quickly, with COVID-19 being deadliest of all witnessed in our lifetimes thus far. While currently all the energies in the country are focused on controlling the transmission and curtailing morbidity and mortality due to the pandemic, here we take a look at how this infection and its fallouts can impact the healthcare scenario in India and some of the possible solutions for it.



We are in a position to formulate certain plan with objectives and responsibilities for another five to seven years in order to improve the healthcare sector. That can be divided into three phases such as Short, Medium and Long term plans.



Short term plans

- Establishing adequate decontamination systems, critical care ICUs and isolation wards with pressure control and lamellar flow systems
- adequate PPE for all the health workers associated with the responding to biological emergencies.

Medium term plans

- Dovetail norms & regulations relevant for BPHE with DM act 2005
- Establishment of early warning system
- Establishing and maintaining community based network for sharing alerts
- Develop a clearly defined interagency emergency response plan with roles and information flows clearly marked out
- Specialized healthcare and laboratory facilities to address biological emergencies/incidents.

Long term plans

- Partnering local institutions with national institutions/experts
- Stockpiling of essential medical supplies such as vaccines and antibiotics etc
- Upgradation of ear-marked hospitals to cope with emergencies
- Mobile tele-health services & Mobile Hospitals
- Establishing and strengthening quarantine facilities

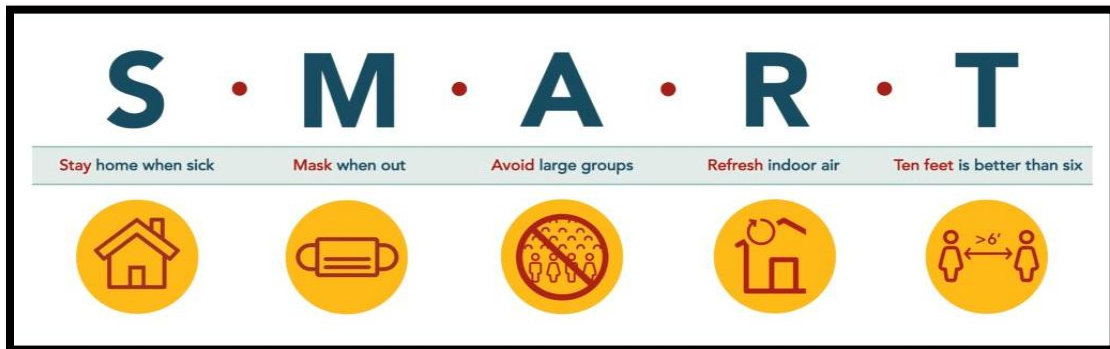
Possible Solutions To Curtail The Long Term Impact

1. Fast-tracking of implementation of targets for public health emergencies within National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP).
2. Community awareness towards Hygiene will have positive impact in the long-term, though in the short-term likely to increase Primary Health Care (PHC) burden significantly
3. Gaps in Care of patients of other ailments, especially chronic diseases in the short-term can lead to long-term burden on healthcare.
4. Strengthening of Government Infrastructure and Public Private Partnerships (PPP) over next few years, but in the near-term, ongoing plans will see a major realignment.
5. Internalization of Pharma Supply Chain & Make-in-India focus for Medical Equipment
6. Medical Tourism will continue to see a downtrend, at least in the short-term
7. Increased use of Technology, Telemedicine, Training of primary health workers and Mobile hospitals

Conclusion

as we face this humongous challenge and focus on sailing through with minimum damage to human lives, there are opportunities to be unravelled for improvement in the healthcare scenario in the country.

But the only way to tackle any pandemic situation is a good health care system. In India COVID already displayed a fragile health care system and this situation forced India to make difficult choices on how to best meet the needs of their people. Government of India also followed the guideline advised by W.H.O that is to maintain social distancing, using sanitizer with 70 % alcohol, washing hand with soap, etc.



But the scenario is changing and nowadays government has allowed the telemedicine practice with the help of registered medical practitioners. It is already applied in different regions of our countries. But additionally, we need a lot of hospitals and medics also for the treatment of this like pandemics. Health care system should be upgraded but it would involve huge investment in the health care system. So, if we make this facility on an urgent basis, we can save lots and lots of human life.

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