

SUMMARY
ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH
MODULE 1

We have learnt the following points.

What is health?

Health means our ability to remain free of illness and injuries.

But health is not only about disease.

We all need to be without mental strain.

For example:

If people get clean drinking water or a pollution free environment they are likely to be healthy.

If people do not get adequate food to eat or have to live in cramped conditions, they will be prone to illness.

Healthcare in India

India has the largest number of medical colleges in the world and is among the largest producers of doctors.

Most of the doctors settle in urban areas. People in the rural areas have to travel long distances to reach a Doctor.

Healthcare facilities have grown substantially over the years.

About five lakh people die from tuberculosis every year.

India gets a large number of medical tourists from many countries.

We are not able to provide clean drinking water to all.

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In order to prevent and treat illnesses we need appropriate healthcare facilities such as health centres, hospitals, laboratories for testing, ambulance services, blood banks, etc.

In order to run such facilities we need health workers, nurses, qualified doctors and other health professionals who can advice, diagnose and treat illness.

We also need the medicines and equipment that are necessary for treating patients. India has large number of doctors, clinics and hospitals.

Public healthcare system

Public healthcare system is a system of hospitals and health centres run by the government.

It has the ability to look after the health of a large section of its population scattered over hundreds of thousands of villages

THE STORY OF HAKIM SEIKH

Hakim Sheikh was a member of the PaschimBangaMazdoorSamity (PBKMS), an organisation of agricultural labourers in West Bengal.

In 1992, one evening, he accidentally fell off a running train and suffered head injuries.

He was taken to a government hospital in Kolkata but they refused to admit him because they did not have a spare bed. He went to another hospital but no use.

Finally, he was admitted in a private hospital, where he received treatment. He spent a lot of money on his treatment.

He and PBKMS filed a case in the court.

The court asked the state government to pay the amount he spent on treatment.