

International Health

- DR. VAIBHAV RAMANUJ

Questions ??

Theory :

- WHO
- UNICEF

Viva :

- Examples of International Health Regulations

Background

- Medicine is one of the pillars of peace
- “Nothing on earth is more international than disease” - Paul Russel
- Health and disease: no political and geographic boundaries
- Disease in any part of the world is a constant threat to the other parts
- Detection.... Isolation.... Quarantine....

Background

- Introduced in Europe for protection from plague (ships, crews, cargo, travelers: 40 days)
- This was the origin of international health work
- But, as an impact, trades were difficult \Rightarrow there was lot of opposition \Rightarrow as a result, international conferences
- Formation of international organizations for discussions, agreements, co operation

Background

1851: Paris; first international sanitary conference; European countries participated for formulation of uniformity for quarantine

- Lasted for 6 months
- Not much fruitful, except that at least an International Sanitary Code was prepared comprising articles dealing with Cholera, Plague and Yellow fever

-
- **The health Organizations of the League of Nations (1923)**
 - **The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (1943)**
 - **World Health Organization (7th April, 1948)**

International Health

It is a well-established branch of public health, with origins in the health situation of developing nations and the efforts of industrialized countries to assist them.

Global health considers the magnitude of problems, and the availability of effective, affordable and acceptable solutions through global cooperation.

Globalization

Definition:

The growing interconnectedness of countries, centered around trade and flow of ideas facilitated by communications technologies, cultural convergence and common concerns for environmental and health impact.

-
- ***Public health*** is the process of mobilizing and engaging local, state, national and international resources to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.
 - Public health embraces both ***social action*** and ***scientific knowledge...***

-
- While problems like unsafe drinking water affect mainly *local communities* within countries, others have *worldwide impact*, e.g. air pollution, drug trafficking, tobacco marketing, etc.
 - Although local and national actions are essential, these also require additional *global action*, e.g. Framework convention on tobacco control, control of HIV, etc.

International Health Agencies

4 types of agencies:

- Multilateral Agencies
- Bilateral Agencies
- International NGOs
- Other Agencies

Multilateral Agencies

Funded primarily by member governments, lead agency is World Health Organization (WHO) launched in 1948 by United Nations.

Others like

- UNICEF
- UNDP
- WB
- UNAID
- FAO
- UNFPA

Bilateral Agencies

Most industrialized nations also provide aid on country-to-country basis, attempting to match recipient's needs with donor's objectives and capacity to assist, usually subject to political considerations.

International NGOs

- International NGOs are increasingly active in development work known as 'people to people' aid, their activities are more specific, supported mainly by voluntary subscriptions and donations.
- The largest is International Red Cross & Red crescent movement.

International NGOs

Others like

- Oxford famine Relief (OXFAM)
- CARE International (cooperative for assistance and relief everywhere)
- Save the children International Alliance
- World Vision
- Ford Foundation

Other Agencies

- Both developed and developing country institutions, universities, laboratories and consulting groups are active in bilateral or multilateral agencies.
- Some philanthropic bodies also contribute in International health like
 - The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 - David and Lucille Pakard Foundation
 - Aga khan Development network

WHO



- A specialized, non political, health agency of the United Nations, with headquarters at Geneva
- Has its own constitution, governing body, membership, budget
- The constitution came into force on 7th April, 1948 which is celebrated every year as **“World Health Day”**.

WHO

Objective:

- Attainment by all the people of the highest level of health

Structure of WHO

- **The world health assembly**
- **The executive board**
- **The secretariat**

WHO

- WHO has its own constitution, own governing bodies, own membership and own budget. It is part of, but not subordinate to, the United Nations.
- Membership in WHO is open to all countries. While most countries are members of both the UN and of WHO, there are some differences. For e.g., Switzerland is a member of WHO, but not of the UNO.

Regions of WHO

Region	Headquarters
South East Asia	New Delhi
Africa	Harare
The Americas	Washington D C
Europe	Copenhagen
Eastern Mediterranean	Alexandria
Western Pacific	Manila

Functions of WHO

- Its first Constitutional function is to act as the directing and coordinating authority on all international health work.
- It also has specific responsibilities for establishing and promoting international standards in the field of health.

Functions of WHO

1. Prevention and control of specific diseases
2. Development of comprehensive health services
3. Family health
4. Environmental health
5. Health statistics
6. Bio-medical research
7. Health literature and information (MEDLARS)
8. Cooperation with other organizations

UNICEF



unicef 
UNITE FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF

- Specialized health agency of UN
- Previously it stands for “United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund”
- Presently it stands for “United Nations Children’s Fund”

UNICEF

- Created in 1946 to provide emergency food and medicines to children after 2nd world war in countries devastated by war
- It became a permanent part of UN system in 1953
- Currently working in 156 countries

Priorities

It currently focuses on five services..

- Education & Gender equality
- Child Survival & Health
- Integrated Early Child Development
- Fight against HIV/ AIDS
- Child protection

GOBI-FFF Campaign

It is to encourage 7 strategies for 'Child Health Revolution'.

- G - growth charts to monitor child development.
- O - oral rehydration to treat dehydration.
- B - breast feeding.
- I - immunization.
- F - food fortification
- F - family planning
- F - female literacy

Water, environment & sanitation

- Children's right to an adequate standard of living & to highest attainable health is central to UNICEF's sanitation programme.
- Through sanitation programme, UNICEF works towards maximizing the health benefits of young children.
- Even in emergencies UNICEF takes the lead in provision of water & sanitation services.

UNICEF in INDIA

- UNICEF started its services in India in the year 1949.
- Of the 7 regional offices of UNICEF one is at New Delhi for South Central Asian Region (Afghanistan, India, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal & Sri Lanka).
- The content of services and priorities are the same for India as of world with little modifications.

UNICEF in INDIA

UNICEF contributions to Child Health:

- Supported India's BCG vaccination programme.
- Assisted in erection of India's first Penicillin & DDT plants.
- It supported the Community Health Worker's scheme launched by Central Gov.
- It supported the NGWEP and made India free of guinea worm by 2000.

Nutrition

- Funded the world's 1st milk processing plant.
- Assisted the government in various programs like Applied Nutrition Programme & Special Nutrition Programme.
- Working to promote Iodized salt.

Child Development Programme

- It works with NCERT, UNESCO to reorganize teaching science in schools.
- It provides supplies to the governments ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) programme.
- Bihar Education Project.

Other Agencies

- UNDP
- UNFPA
- FAO
- WB
- ILO

THANK YOU

