

36th lecture:

International Health

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Objectives:

- List concepts of international health.
- Understand the scope and applications of international health.
- Describe current global problems.
- List future challenges to international health.



International health:

- It is the involvement of countries in the work of international organizations by establishing a committee that creates rules and regulations that must be followed by the countries.
- Development of aid and humanitarian assistance. (In case of disasters; tsunami, AIDS, etc..)
- International health cannot be viewed disease specific or country specific. We need to examine all transboundary and transdisciplinary conditions that affect health. (Risk factors to a certain country that led to a certain disease may happen to another country)
- The word "international" is literally defined in terms of national borders, whereas the word "global" encompasses the entire world.

Collective health:

To extend the theory and conventional practice of the public health with a view to developing to the best ideas and actions to support the establishment of a public health that can interpret and mediate with knowledge and effectiveness in the taken care of improvement and of the levels of health of the population.

Collective Health is a field of knowledge in constant development constitutes a forced point of reference and reflection to extend the horizons of vision of the object problem health-disease-care of the populations.

Mass gatherings:

- Temporary collection of large numbers of people (They could be from different countries) at one site or location for a common purpose.
- Gatherings can be short-term (for a few hours as in a sporting event or concert) or longer (for several days to weeks as in Hajj and the Olympic Games).
- A gathering can be held at one location or spread over different sites.

Travel health:

Aspects of health and disease related to travel. It includes the physiologic and beneficence or adverse effects of travel in general or with regard to specific diseases.

It includes also emporiatrics; the specialty devoted to the medical aspects of travel. It excludes study tours.

Global public health:

- Activities within the health sector that address normative/formal health issues, global disease outbreaks and pandemics as well as international agreements and cooperation regarding non-communicable diseases
- Commitment to health in the context of development assistance and poverty reduction.
- Policy initiatives in other sectors – such as foreign policy and trade.

Global Health:

Health issues that go beyond national boundaries and governments and call for actions on the global forces that determine the health of people requires new forms of governance at national and international level that seek to include a wide range of actors. (Some certain brands of icecreams)

Health is a human right. Health is a key component of equity, sustainability and human security, and health as a global public good.

It is NOT just health problems that cross borders or are common to countries around the world; solutions to these problems can also cross borders and be shared among countries, regardless of level of development.

All countries can both learn from other countries and also share their own experiences and information. An enlightened new definition of global health paints the picture of a two-way street:

- Shared problems, sharing solutions
- This new definition is very important for the science of global health, as global health is portrait as a road of sharing
- Global health is not about a single health problem such as malaria, TB, or AIDS, no matter how serious the problem is
- Global health is not about the health of one country or region. Global health transcends boundaries and regions
- Global health are all of the factors that comprise our health
- Global health is in your clinics, global health is in your communities, global health is in your countries

Key action areas for a global public health:

One of the characteristics of modernization is to take health out of the confines of religion and charity (We can't say it is out of good will, it should be a right) and make it a key element of the action of the state and the rights of citizenship.

- Health as a global public good.
- Health as a key component of global security.
- Strengthen global health governance for interdependence.
- Health as a key factor of sound business practice and social responsibility. (You can't supply that suffers from starvation with food that is not healthy)
- Ethical principle of health as global citizenship.

Health as a global public good:

Implies ensuring the value of health, understanding it as a key dimension of global citizenship, and keeping it high on the global political agenda.

Defining common agendas, increasing the importance of global health treaties/agreements, and increasing pooling of sovereignty/ownership by nation states in the area of health.

New interface between foreign and domestic policies and new forms of sharing of research and proprietary information to resolve common health challenges

Health as component of global security:

Implies an extensive global health surveillance role and expanded international health regulations with dominant power for the WHO

Sanction/endorse for countries that do not comply—the reliable financing of a global surveillance infrastructure and a rapid health response force would be ensured through a new kind of global financing mechanism or a global public goods tax.

For example: Some countries demand taxes for smoking.

Global health governance for interdependence:

Strengthening the WHO and giving it a new and stronger mandate or authority. Must have the constitutional capability to ensure agenda coherence in global health and be able to strengthen its assembling capabilities, ensure transparency and accountability in global health governance through a new kind of reporting system that is requested of all international health actors.

Recognition of its coordination and leadership role to reduce the transaction costs for countries including an advisory role in relation to the health impacts of policies of other agencies.

Be the coordinator of health in crises by acting as the intermediate health authority.

Gain more coordinating power for the actions necessary to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on health.

Health as factor of sound business practice and social responsibility:

Falls into the realm/area of the MDGs. Scope for business involvement in development, not only in form of the public- private partnerships around diseases but also for producing and marketing healthy and safe products to the poor.

Also means increasing the capacity of the WHO to negotiate a new system of access to drugs based on a global public goods model.

To work on new financing models to establish a system to ensure how contributions of the rich world ensure access to prevention, care, and treatment in developing countries.

Health and social protection cannot be separated.

Ethical principles of health as global citizenship:

Means working to develop a common notion of social justice and a system of international law where human rights constitute a legal claim

Global social protection becomes a global challenge. Global institutions have focused on the global public goods necessary to the expansion of trade and commerce but have severely neglected the expansion of social public goods. Radically different approaches and question are very basis of what at the global level is a public and what is a private good.

1st World Success of public health:

Developed societies changes: (Health societies)

- Longer life expectancy and ageing populations,
- Expensive health and medical care system,
- Rapidly growing private health market,
- Health as a dominant theme in social and political discussion and
- Health as a major personal goal in life.
- Post-modern health societies of the developed world stand in harsh contrast to the situation in the poorest countries.

Situation in the poor countries:

- A falling life expectancy in many African countries.
- A lack of access to even the most basic services.
- An excess of personal expenditures for health of the poorest.
- Health as a neglected arena of national and development politics.
- Health as a matter of survival.
- Predominant pattern is still infectious diseases engendered by the natural environment (malaria, tuberculosis and infant diarrhoea), as well as AIDS and high rates of maternal deaths.
- Non-communicable diseases are also beginning to plague these regions.

Important problems in global health today:

There are three broad cause groups of health problems that, collectively, constitute the world's total disease burden

Group 1: communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions.

Group 2: non-communicable diseases.

Group 3: injuries.

Within each of these broad groups are more specific conditions.

Leading Global health problems:

- Lower respiratory infections.

- Road traffic accidents.
- Diarrheal diseases.
- Congenital anomalies.
- Conditions during the perinatal period; Malaria.
- Unipolar major depression: COPD.
- Ischemic heart disease: Falls.
- Cerebrovascular disease.
- Fe-deficiency Anemia.
- Tuberculosis; Measles.

Global health and information:

One of the biggest challenges to global health is access to information

Much of clinical practice and prevention is the sharing of knowledge. If we can harness the information revolution we can have a profound effect with our patients and with the people of the world

Global health is a knowledge organization, with multiple different disciplines tied together by lines of communication to attack global problems.

New achievements in the field of information technology are helping to exchange information rapidly and at minimal cost.

Conclusion:

International health + Global public health + Collective health = LIFE'S RIGHT