

Health Financing for Sustainable Development: Current Challenges and Future Policy Plans

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The health system of Sri Lanka, as a model, is a good example of the best universal health coverage. Healthcare system in Sri Lanka is considered to be a highly successful low cost model. Further, it's highlighted by community focused health care system by

- Free at the point of delivery
- Sound primary healthcare policy
- Widespread healthcare services.

With those highlights, Sri Lankan model has done well in the millennium hitting the developed good health indices.

It is important that Health Financing strategies to be considered within the broader development strategies. The fundamental sources of financing health care, yet this are an area that has been overlooked. Therefore it is necessary to pay greater attention to the economics of health policy. As we all understand rising health expenditure, enhanced productivity, this welfare gains for all. Thus, proper health financing policies are very important as it is the main determinant of the quality of health service.

Toward ensuring Universal Health Coverage, domestic resource utilization is vital. Yet the moot point is: whether the current economic conditions permit the governments of many countries around the

world to enhance the budgeting allocation for health.

Economic growth experienced by many countries around the world, especially before the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, push many countries to the category of middle income countries. This has increased the availability of domestic funds for the health sector.

Yet these funds should be utilized efficiently and it is important that these funds are channelled towards priority populations and services to ensure equitable access to quality health services and to provide financial protection for all.

Advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, while dragging the entire world economy into recession as never before, has brought unprecedented attention to the issues of health system sustainability.

In spite of many limitations and constraints, Sri Lanka has performed much better in containing the spread of the deadly virus.

However, the economic recession that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic endangered Universal Health Coverage endangering equity. Therefore, proper and strong health financing policies with adequate concessions towards the needy lower income population is a must to overcome the current economic constraints.