

Pushing health sector to adopt green initiatives & practices help India in meeting the SDGs for climate. Discuss

The hospital sector contributes 4% of carbon emissions globally. Also, according to world bank report 100 million people will be dragged to extreme poverty by 2030 due to climate change.

Meeting SDGs-13 - climate action

Emphasis can be laid on greening the hospital infrastructure. The Indian green building council green health care rating system has laid out guidelines. Meeting these guidelines would substantially help meeting climate targets.

Tangible benefits - the green building code can help energy saving by 30-40% and water saving by 20-30%.

Intangible benefits such as faster recovery by 15% and reduced time in hospitals by 4%.
Greening the healthcare can greatly reduce the cost of patient expenditure.
Energy efficiency - hospitals use high energy devices for diagnosis - CT scan, x-ray, etc shifting to solar, biomass, wind can reduce the carbon footprint.

Food - Patients and hospital staffs can be fed with millet based foods. As it is gluten free and helps to speed up recovery. And millet are climate neutral.

Recycling: complying strictly with Hazardous waste management rules can bring down spillage of biomedical waste.

The current health expenditure of 1.3% of GDP must be upscoted to atleast 4% of GDP to enjoy the benefits of green health care.