

21 |
Should the right access to healthcare be made as a fundamental right to shift our approach towards better healthcare? Examine (200 words)

The Pandemic situation, prevailing malnutrition, intensity of non communicable diseases have proven that Right to access to healthcare must be made fundamental for further developments in health sector and to achieve Universal health Coverage.

The factors that prevent the population from right access to health care as per WHO are affordability, accessibility, infrastructure and human resource. This fact was proven in pandemic where marginalised people could not afford treatment in private sector.

Shift to fundamental Rights approach & its benefits

Various judicial interpretations have interpreted healthcare as part of Right to life under Article 21 but with limitations.

The healthcare access once made as a fundamental right will act as spine to schemes and enhance the health ecosystem.

That kind of approach will empower doctor, healthcare workers and ensure transparency, accountability to stakeholders.
Further more it will ensure increased budget, better prevention measures, high quality institutions.

To prove these things are possible best example is "Increase in gross enrollment ratio to 95% in primary education" within 15 years. This so said impossible task was possible due to making education fundamental right under article 21-A [for age b/w 6-14 years]

Thus once healthcare access is made a fundamental right the service delivery approach model of schemes will become a rights based approach, breaking discriminatory structure and ensure inclusivity

Way forward

Instead of viewing the investments to be made in it as spending, seeing it as a high yielding investment to cut down out of pocket expenditure in long run will be ideal. Hence right to access healthcare must be made fundamental for better health service and is a need of hour.