

Free Medical Aid: A Need of Hour

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1. Introduction

In 2017, World Health Organisation and World Bank has announced more than half of the world's people(7.3 billion) do not have access to essential health services¹. Free medical care is not a new concept it is already present in Ancient, medieval, and modern society. A healthy life is creating a healthy family, community and nation. In this context, NHPS² launched by the Indian Government in 2018 is known as Ayushman Bharat Yojana³ designed to provide health insurance coverage to roughly 100 million “poor and vulnerable families” through reimbursements. The Covid-19 pandemic has made clear that government licensing of health professionals blocks access to care. Licensing gives state politicians the final word on allowable categories of clinicians, the education and training requirements for each category and the range of services each category of the clinician may perform.

2. Free Medical Aid: Concept

Free medical care is related to the principles of humanity. In the 5th BC century, the Hippocratic Oath was formulated free medical aid the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates was a notable exception, but its provisions were ascribed to by only a minority of Greek physicians⁴. Similar concepts existed in ancient Indian and Chinese medicine⁵

1 Shalendra D. Sharma, Health Care for India's 500 Million: The Promise of the National Health Protection Scheme, Vol. 18, Harvard Public Health Review, pp.1-14, (2018).

2 National Health Protection Scheme

3 Ayushman Bharat Yojana is also called Medicare.

4 Health Law, Britannica, available at: <https://www.britannica.com/science/health-law>(last visited on 21/11/2021).

5 D. Donev, Human health – definition, concept and content, Nikodijevic B, editor, Contemporary diagnostics and therapy in medicine. Skopje: Faculty of Medicine, p. 5-19,(2000).

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