

VOICES

Whither quality healthcare?

India ranks 145 among 195 countries in healthcare access and quality index. Students talk about the need to improve facilities

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Health, being a state subject, is the responsibility of state governments to provide equal and quality health access to all.

There is greater need for continuous monitoring of the implementation of plans and utilisation of funds allocated under the National Rural Health Mission.

You could pursue training in informal sector providers who practise and providing medical transport to rural and scattered villages to visit providers in larger towns and cities.

Other options include well-equipped PHCs, provision of free medicine and diagnostic facilities, better infrastructure of existing hospitals, and increased coverage of health insurance.



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The major cause is that majority of the population doesn't have access to basic health care. People in rural areas are affected more, since there is lack of basic facilities. For emergencies, they have to travel a lot. Moreover, rural health care centres are running without skilled health care providers. Investment of the government in health care services should be increased, especially for research purposes. Small health care centres are running with shortage of medicines and basic medical equipments; with proper investment the situation can be rectified.



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There has been significant growth within the healthcare industry in terms of employment and revenue generation, and it has been facilitated by rapid privatisation of healthcare. Despite high out-of-pocket costs, a large number of patients across rural and urban India are choosing private healthcare options.

Public intervention in healthcare delivery is necessary, and can take various forms. The state should collect data on prices of similar treatments in public and private facilities to identify and address the exact reasons for the price divergence.



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The story can be read online [here](#).