
INDIA STUDIES

0447/02

Case Studies

May/June 2016

INSERT (Resource Booklet)

1 hour 45 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert (Resource Booklet) contains Sources which you should use to answer Question 3 (Section B).

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the sources before attempting to answer the question. This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Source A

The Indian healthcare industry is growing at a rapid rate, with increased spending on healthcare. Even so, the vast majority of the country suffers from a poor standard of healthcare, which has not kept up with the growing economy. Despite having centres of excellence in healthcare delivery, these facilities are limited and are inadequate in meeting the current healthcare demands. Nearly one million Indians die every year due to inadequate healthcare facilities, and 700 million people have no access to specialist care. Some 80% of specialists live in urban areas and 40% of primary health centres in India are understaffed. In order to meet the manpower shortages and reach world standards, very heavy investment would be needed.

Source B

Primary health centres are the most important organisations in the rural healthcare system. They attempt to provide routine medical care to the vast majority in the countryside, but send the more difficult cases to urban hospitals. There are over 22,000 primary health centres. These rural health centres rely on paramedics to meet most of their needs, but there is a reluctance among staff to work in rural areas. The integration of health services with family planning programmes has also caused problems, as many of the rural population believe that the health centres are hostile to their traditional preference for large families. Despite this, there have been some achievements, particularly in the programmes for the immunisation of children against polio, smallpox, tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

Source C

Hospital care: India faces a huge problem with its hospital provision. There is a big gap in terms of the availability of hospital beds. The world average is 3.96 hospital beds per 1000 population but India has just over 0.7 beds per 1000. There is an uneven distribution of hospitals between states. India also faces a shortage of doctors, nurses and paramedics who are needed to support a growing healthcare industry. India is looking to establish academic medical centres for the delivery of higher care.

Women's health: This is a major concern as the life expectancy of women is only 66.4 years, which is lower than most nations. Health provision and care in rural areas are a particular problem as many women are the victims of nutritional discrimination and, therefore, there are high incidents of anaemia and malnutrition. The death rates of women in childbirth are the second highest in the world, but contraception, with the exception of sterilisation, is often not available to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

Water quality, sanitation and disease: The health burden of poor water quality is enormous. It is estimated that around 37.7 million Indians are affected by waterborne diseases annually. 1.5 million children are estimated to die of diarrhoea alone, and 180 million working days are lost due to waterborne diseases each year, resulting in an economic burden of \$600 million a year. Poor water quality spreads disease, causes death and hampers socio-economic progress. This puts an economic burden on households and the nation's economy and productivity.

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