

CLEIMUN20

“Diplomacy in a Challenging Global Environment”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: World Health Organization

QUESTION OF: Rapid Population Growth and its Effects on Health Care Resources

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Information and Background:

Over the past couple of decades, health care expenditures have been rising due to population growth. As the population continues to grow the more difficult health care is to provide, especially to developing nations. In addition, the growing population internationally requires a higher demand for healthcare than before. Due to the population growth disease begin to spread more readily (more in developing nations) which in turn increases the demand in health care. The World Health Organization has stated, “The number of people aged 65 or older is projected to grow from an estimated 524 million in 2010 to nearly 1.5 billion in 2050, with most of the increase in developing countries”. Also, the number of children under the age of 5 has begun to decrease and is projected to continue that rate. With the projected sky rocket of elderly people in the next ten years, we need to account for a great loss of healthcare professionals. Lastly, as healthcare becomes more expensive, the harder it is for smaller nations to be able to provide the technology to house healthcare systems. These are problems that are going to be faced soon as it

is also projected for health professionals to decrease.

What are the effects of lack of healthcare today in developing nations?

Lack of healthcare in developing nations is a major reason as to why the disease spread so rapidly throughout these nations. “Three diseases (Diarrhea, Pneumonia, and Malaria) contribute to 52% of deaths in all nations. Also for each one of these diseases mentioned before there is at least one way to prevent the disease and one effective treatment” (Source 1). Even in more developed countries where healthcare is more accessible, the quality is often very poor, leaving its effectiveness well short of its potential. Evidence from research on healthcare shows that where there are primary health care facilities many of them do not make any impact on the population health. Lastly, the lack of resources in less developed nations prevents access to health care and leads to more health problems. If these situations continue to happen a major pandemic could happen in the foreseeable future.

What previous actions have been taken to increase access to health care?

Groups and organizations such as Project HOPE have taken initiative to increasing healthcare access to all people worldwide. Project HOPE specifically works to achieve sustainable advances in health care around the world by implementing health education programs and providing humanitarian assistance in areas of need. Although, many groups do this Project HOPE is unique among international organizations in that they have worked across the health spectrum in a wide variety of settings, from the family and community levels to the tertiary care level, training traditional birth attendants and community health volunteers where resources are limited and

surgeons and engineers where technology is appropriate. Another organization PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) was created to help those in the Pan American region. They promote universal health coverage and universal access to health and strengthening of health systems based on primary health care strategies. It assists countries in fighting infectious diseases such as malaria, cholera, dengue, HIV and tuberculosis as well as the region's growing epidemic of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes. Multiple other organizations such as the Global Health Council, Doctors Without Borders, and the International Committee of the Red Cross have been created for the sole purpose of increasing health care in countries that lack the resources and power to do so. In addition, WHO, through the 2005 IHR proposed a new guidance and promotes cooperation between developed and developing countries on emerging health issues of global importance. The IHR requires countries to develop appropriate surveillance and response capacities to address these health concerns. Many organizations have been created to defeat the lack of health care but not many steps have been taken.

What are the projected problems for the effect of rapid population growth on the healthcare system?

Some future problems that are to come:

1. An increase in population requires a demand to increase all health care systems
2. Obesity in well-developed nations is projected to quickly increase
3. Due to a large number of people over 50 (or elderly), there is a projected shortage of healthcare professionals

4. The diversity of caregivers lags behind the growing diversity of patients
5. Current care has been focused on a single disease versus addressing comorbidity
6. Adapting and adjusting to the Affordable Care Act pose challenges
7. The sustainability and structure of federal programs in relation to the increasing aging population are a concern
8. Changes in family structure may lead to fewer family caregivers

The health care system will need to prepare for the increasing incidences of chronic conditions within the growth of the aging population, as well as develop strategies to prevent falls. An important challenge is implementation of new approaches in health care delivery to address the changing health status of this aging population. With severe conditions on the rise in today's population, their health care is going to become more complex. Focusing on a single disease rather than a multitude of diseases can result in insufficient focus on other present medical conditions. Lastly, there needs to be a focus on providing preventive care versus reactive care. Overall, with the decrease of quality and quantity of the healthcare system, there are some major actions that must be taken before it is too late.

Works Cited

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