Society & Social Justice · GS - II

In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

public healthcare, marketisation, universal health coverage, primary healthcare, Health and Wellness Centres, Ayushman Bharat, preventive healthcare, essential medicines, human resources, health infrastructure

Model Answer

Introduction

Market mechanisms can expand healthcare choices and innovation, but excessive marketisation may increase costs and create unequal access. The State therefore has a central responsibility to ensure **affordable, accessible and equitable healthcare**.

Measures to Strengthen Grassroots Healthcare

1. Strengthen primary healthcare: Expand and adequately resource Health and Wellness Centres to provide comprehensive primary care close to communities. The Ayushman Bharat model envisages such centres as the

base of comprehensive primary healthcare.

2. Increase public health expenditure: Greater and predictable funding is required for infrastructure, medicines, diagnostics and human resources.

3. Strengthen human resources: Recruit doctors, nurses, pharmacists, community health officers and other personnel, especially in rural and remote areas.

4. Essential medicines and diagnostics: Ensure reliable free or affordable access at public facilities.

5. Preventive healthcare: Emphasise immunisation, maternal-child health, nutrition, sanitation and screening for non-communicable diseases.

6. Digital health: Telemedicine and digital health records can connect rural patients with specialists.

7. Community participation: Panchayats, self-help groups and local health committees can improve accountability.

8. Regulate private healthcare: Enforce quality standards, transparent pricing and patient-rights mechanisms.

Conclusion

The State should adopt a **primary-care-centred, preventive and equitable health system** in which public institutions provide the foundation and private providers complement rather than substitute public responsibility.

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