THE HEALTH SYSTEMS

CONCEPTS AND INTRODUCTION

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Why do study health systems?
Health systems components
Common challenges to Health Systems

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION
Why study Health Systems?

- To understand relations between the different components.
- To provide perspective to understand policies.
- To examine strategies for achieving equity under different situations.
- To learn from history and several experiences.
- To improve services.
- To draw generalizations.
- To create System’s influence on health status.
A health care system may be defined as the combination of:

- health care institutions,
- supporting human resources,
- financing mechanisms,
- information systems,
- organizational structures,
- management structures

the collectively delivery of health care services to patients.
Institutions include:

♦ Local, Regional and National

♦ Public and private providers of health care services (hospitals, clinics, health maintenance organizations, and nursing homes)

♦ Educational institutions that provide training for health professionals

♦ Environmental health departments

♦ Other organizations responsible for health promotion, illness prevention, or health care.
Supporting human resources include:

- Public health professionals: physicians, dentists, health services administrators, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, public health workers, social workers, allied health personnel such as medical technicians,

- and other professionals directly involved in health promotion, prevention of disease, or health care.
FINANCING mechanisms include:

(Health Care among the largest economic activities: Consumes 6 to 15% of national income.

- National health insurance plans,
- Direct government financing of services,
- Private health insurance,
- Managed care financing arrangements,
- Payroll and other taxing systems,
- Private out-of-pocket expenditures
- Any other sources that pay for cost of care.
Information systems include:

- Computer networks within and between institutions,
- Printed media
- Telephone systems
- Interactive television and other video systems;
- Any other information media or technology that
Management structures include:

- Public health system administrative systems
- Multi-institutional organisations (ex. hospital chains)
- Financing administration and financing
- National health insurance
- Regional, Provincial insurance
- Private Insurance
- Payroll and other taxes
Linking Organizations / Associations

Public health / Medical / Hospital / Nursing / Pharmacy / Rural health / Mental health / Managed Care

Supporting Human Resources

Public health workers / Physicians / Dentists / Health services administrators / Nurses / Pharmacists / Psychologists / Social workers / Therapists / Nutritionists / Medical technologists
Common Challenges to National Health Care Systems

• What are the cost-related and ethical limits on technological growth and innovation in health care?

• How do we identify the diagnostic and treatment choices that are affordable and improve the human condition?
• Change in new emerging and re-emerging diseases,

• Changing disease profile,

• New Technical and diagnostic advances,

• The issue of Longevity of life,
• Expectations of people
• Subsidies and competing priorities
• Improving awareness among people
• Rising Cost of health care delivery
QUESTIONS

- How do we control overspecialization in physician services while overcoming shortages of primary care specialists?

- How do we deal with the changing of delivery systems?

- What are the long-term impacts of high-technology information management systems?
• How do we deal with the changing ethnic composition of populations in many countries as cross-border migration increases, including value shifts and cultural implications for health care?

• How do we interpret the problems of serving rural and urban-center populations, including the challenges of balancing cost and quality for remotely located and low-income citizens?
• What are the implications of globalization in the world economy and the challenges of maintaining national competitiveness, with associated challenges of cost control?

• How do we manage citizen concurrent demands for greater clinical effectiveness, improved quality, fiscal control, and greater value for the resources expended?
THE END