



OPENING KEYNOTE BY AJYO MEHTA CHAIRMAN, MAHARERA, FORMER CHIEF SECRETARY OF MAHARASHTRA AND FORMER MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, MUMBAI

When you look at the health structure in India, most of it is vertically driven. But in these verticals, do we have a common thread running for a migrant who will have special needs and certain disabilities while he is approaching the system? We must have an overarching policy that punctures into each vertical and has a subset which deals with migrants.



SHILPA KUMAR PARTNER, OMIYAR NETWORK INDIA

Healthcare is a government monopoly, especially with the demographic we're trying to reach, and therefore, how do you overcome the fear psychosis even before you actually enable physical access and build trust in the system along with information about the nearest healthcare centres.



K SRINATH REDDY PRESIDENT, PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA (PHFI)

If you take the Sustainable Development Goals, most of the goals will have to be looked at from the prism of how migrants have been affected, whether it is poverty, hunger, health, education or gender... most of them have been violated.



UMA MAHADEVAN PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ, GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Until we achieve a satisfactory and robust digital solution, we should look at the problem that we have today - the lack of documentation. Why should we not give poor people access to their own health documentation?



DR PAVITRA MOHAN DIRECTOR - HEALTH SERVICES, AAJEEVIKA BUREAU, AND CO-FOUNDER, BASIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Transiting poses a huge challenge, both in terms of safety and in terms of contracting diseases like Covid on the way. It was one of the contributing factors to the flaring up of Covid in the second phase.



DR VANDANA PRASAD FOUNDER SECRETARY, PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCE NETWORK (PHRN)

There is not only the issue of invisibility when we speak of migrants, there is also sequestration and pseudo-private spaces... Even when we deal with agencies such as the National Human Rights Commission, they feel that. The ministry also often says that we cannot go into private zones and regulate or monitor things or offer services.

THIRD EDITION: MIGRATION AND HEALTHCARE

'Reclaiming of trust among the migrant population is important'

Moderated by Deputy Associate Editor Udit Misra, this edition had panelists discuss healthcare provisions for migrants, the need for community-based health services and universal health coverage

On need for policy interventions

AJOY MEHTA: What are the kind of policy interventions that we are looking at when we look at the health of migrants? First and foremost, let us not look at it as an enforcement issue or demographic danger. It is a human problem that needs to be dealt with compassion. Mumbai provides free healthcare in its corporation hospitals, which are well stocked in terms of human resource and equipment, but how many migrants know that medical care here is free? Even if they knew, how many migrants would walk into a municipal hospital and demand the service?

On gender specific issues

DR VANDANA PRASAD: Single-person migration is mostly male, but we have women who come as construction workers, teachers and nurses for the rest of their families. So the economic distress has a strong kind of feminisation to it. That has also translated into health issues because we know that malnutrition and anaemia amongst women are very high in India. Also, when migrants went back home, in many places they were welcomed, and panchayats made efforts to take them back. In many places, it was the opposite. So arranging for community-based facilities for quarantine, isolation, particularly with respect to migrants who are coming back, is important.

On the alienation of migrants

DR PAVITRA MOHAN: What we were seeing (last March) was not so much

affected by Covid, but was related to the closure of all health services, absence of transportation, an acute shortage of food, which led to an increase in diseases like tuberculosis. Government services were focused either on Covid or nothing, and because of that childbirth significantly increased at home, leading to an increased risk of maternal deaths, etc.

In some areas, we saw what is known as a syndrome, where Covid was there, but it was also associated with a sharp increase in tuberculosis. In high migration areas, the malaria epidemic also started rising with very limited access to care.

In villages, we saw a one-and-a-half times increase in malnutrition levels among children.

For the next several months, when Covid, even in the cities, declined before the second wave, one of the things that was a remnant of the first wave was the way migrants were treated when they returned. In general, they don't feel assimilated in the cities. But during this time, they felt further alienated. That had a huge impact before the second wave, when immunisation was being promoted. That alienation from the system led to a lot of distrust and failure to accept vaccines. Reclaiming of trust

among the migrant population is extremely important.

On community participation

UMA MAHADEVAN: We've been talking about community-based healthcare services. My team has created a platform for a pandemic response, connecting requests for help with the offices of support, mapping of all the government facilities, service delivery units, nearest anganwadis, nearest Primary Health Center, post office, bank branch, police station, Indra centers. It's possible to connect with nearby civil society groups who may be able to help. It should be doable and in (different) languages. We can have call centres and migrant resource centres and can give welcome kits to all migrants with details of the nearest services.

On universal health coverage

K Srinath REDDY: It's not really useful for us to say that we should only examine what happened to them (migrants) during the Covid period. That was an acute exacerbation of long-standing neglect. There are a number of sections of our population who are actually deprived of essential health services, in terms of

accessibility, appropriate care and affordability. That is why we call for universal health coverage, not merely to protect human productivity, which seems to be the preoccupation of those who look at migrants as a human resource, but also looking at it as an essential human right.

On the need for better living conditions

DR PAVITRA MOHAN: Living conditions are one of the very central determinants of the health of the migrants. You cannot talk of health if 50 people are living in a room without water, without a toilet, without ventilation. In times of Covid, we have understood the value of ventilation. But, before that, a lot of them were suffering from tuberculosis. Maybe, subsequently, we can think of what are the policy ways to promote safe, secure and healthy housing. Most developed countries have invested in safe housing for migrants and for the population in the cities and that has been central to how public health developed. The second is working conditions. We see so many cases of silicosis in south Rajasthan, where people are dying in their 30s and 40s because they have been involved in stone carving or mining.

The third is access to healthcare. It is not portability alone because, as a citizen of the country, health is a fundamental right. Ideally, you should not need to carry anything. The policy should be towards universalising access to healthcare for migrants, irrespective of whether the documentation is there or not.



Table for INDO-TECH TRANSFORMERS LIMITED showing audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2021. Includes columns for Particulars, Quarter ended (31-Mar-21, 31-Mar-20), and Year ended (31-Mar-21, 31-Mar-20).

Table for BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED (A GOVT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE) showing extract of standalone & consolidated audited financial results for the year ended 31/03/2021. Includes columns for Particulars, Year Ended (31/03/2021, 31/03/2020), and Consolidated (31/03/2021, 31/03/2020).

TPG-backed online pharmacy may seek fund at \$4 bn value

API HOLDINGS IS weighing a new funding round that could value the owner of India's largest online pharmacy chain at about \$4 billion, according to people familiar with the matter. The company is considering raising about \$300 million and its existing investors including TPG Capital and Temasek Holdings could participate, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the discussions are private. API, which owns India's first e-pharmacy unicorn PharmEasy, intends to use the proceeds for potential

acquisitions particularly in the diagnostic area, one of the people said. A new round would mark the second fundraising by API Holdings within a few months after securing about \$350 million in April. Deliberations are ongoing and details of the fundraising could still change, the people said. Siddharth Shah, API's co-founder and chief executive officer, didn't respond to messages for comment, while representatives for Temasek and TPG declined to comment. —BLOOMBERG

Bolo Indya removed from Google Playstore

GOOGLE HAS REMOVED indigenous social media app Bolo Indya from Playstore on a copyright complaint made by music company T-Series. Super Cassettes Industries, which operates under the brand name T-Series, has served an infringement notice to social media and video sharing platforms about a year ago to pay around ₹3.5 crore in damages from using its copyrighted contents. While most of the companies have settled the row with T-Series, Bolo Indya is yet to come to terms with the music company. —PTI

Table for Aster DM Healthcare Limited showing audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2021. Includes columns for Particulars, Consolidated (Quarter ended, Year ended), and Standalone (Quarter ended, Year ended).

Table for LAKSHMI AUTOMATIC LOOM WORKS LIMITED showing audited financial results (Standalone) for the quarter and year ended 31-03-2021. Includes columns for Sl. No., Particulars, Quarter Ended (31.03.2021, 31.12.2020, 31.03.2020), and Year Ended (31.03.2021, 31.03.2020).