Role of Government in Public Health Article

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This paper will review the following article: Lakshminarayan, S. (2011). The Role of Government in Public Health. *Journal of Family & Community Medicine.*doi.[0.4103/1319-1683.78635](https://dx.doi.org/10.4103/1319-1683.78635)

**Introduction**

According to this article, public health is focused on disease control and prevention at the population level, using informed choices and organized efforts of the society, private and public communities, organizations and individuals. Nonetheless, the role of government is fundamental in tackling these challenges and accomplishing health equality. Contribution to population health originates from systems separate from the formal care system, and the possibility of intersectoral contributions to the communities’ health is increasingly identified globally. Therefore, the role of government in impacting population health is not restricted within the health sector but also by different sectors that are outside health systems.

**The role of government within the health system.**

First, it has the responsibility of strengthening the health sector. Fundamental issues that the health sector must face include lack of material and financial resources, workforce challenges and the stewardship issues of adopting pre-equity health measures in a pluralistic society. The government has to establish effective convergence and integration of health services and to impact architectural correction in the care delivery system. Second, designing disease surveillance programs. The government has the responsibility of developing health information systems to establish committed information highways relating to the occurrence of diseases required for containment and prevention at the community level. The information should be used to assist societies to prioritize their health issues and to inform decision making at the local level.

Third, developing research systems. The government has to strengthen research infrastructure in the community medicine departments and to foster their collaboration with state healthcare services. Forth, the government has the role of regulating public health. A good regulation system is crucial to the successful outcomes of public health. It minimizes exposure to ailments through enforcing sanitary codes, for example, water quality controls, food safety, and slaughterhouse hygiene. It regulates the public health using implementation and updating of public health regulations, enhancing public awareness of prevailing regulations and consulting stakeholders

The fifth role of the government in the health system is the promotion of health. The government has the role of stopping the spread of diseases like HIV/ AIDS, assisting youths to recognize the hazards of drug abuse and promoting physical activities. These are examples of behavioral change communication that concentrated on ways to motivate individuals to make healthy decisions. Guarantee the success of these promotion efforts; the government develops community-based education programs. The sixth role is to formulate public health policies. It has the responsibility of identifying health targets and objectives in order to direct the health sector practices, The Affordable Care Act, helps all American access medical services.

**Government’s role in necessitating intersectoral coordination toward issues in public health**

The government forms stronger relationships with other agencies involved in public health, largely because several factors impacting the healthcare results are not within their direct jurisdiction. Here, the government addresses all the health social determinants. These determinants include:

First, the living conditions of people. The government has to ensure that citizens get safe water for drinking and sanitation. This is one of the critical determinants which directly contributes to a decrease in the spread of communicable diseases. The government does this by ensuring there are programs that provide safe water to both urban and rural areas at an affordable and achievable rate. The second determinant is urban planning. The government provides basic services such as solid waste and sewerage management. Here, the government also addresses housing and urban poverty problems. The third determinant is reviving livelihood and rural infrastructure. When the need arises, the government promotes agricultural mechanization, enhances investments efficiency, diversifies and offers better access to skills, land, and credit.

The fourth determinant is education. The government has to ensure that all children get a quality education so that they can be responsible children in the community. The fifth determinant is early child development and nutrition. The government has the role of providing models of strengthening child development in any poor performing state. In addition, it provides micronutrient deficiency control strategies such as horticultural intervention, dietary diversification, nutritional supplementation, food fortification and other health measures which require intersectoral coordination with different departments.

The sixth determinant is food security measures. Innovations are needed in strengthening the public system of distribution to curb the exclusion and inclusion errors and enhance the scope of commodities for people living in deplorable circumstances. The government puts forth activity plans to enhance domestic food production, establish agriculture remunerative and increase consumer incomes. Under this section, the government also has the role of stabilizing the population. To ensure a quality life for the people, the government must stabilize population. The government formulates policies to keep the population in check. However, it also controls the population through, enhancing institutional deliveries, women empowerment and strengthening healthcare infrastructure and services.

Lastly, the government has the role of reducing the effect of climate change and its dangers on health. Weather disasters and thermal extremes, vector-borne spread, water-borne and food-borne infections, malnutrition, air quality and food security with related human hazards are the public health threats related to climate change. In addition, exhaustion of non-renewable water and energy sources, water quality and soil deterioration and the possible innumerable species and habitats extinctions are the other effects. The government has the responsibility of ensuring the nation's greenhouse gas emissions do not exceed the maximum rates.

The author of this article presents factious information that I am compelled to agree with. Every single argument presented by the author is true. The government has all the responsibilities outlined in the article. However, some of them are not just the responsibility of the government but the responsibility of everyone in the society. For instance, health promotion endeavors. Everybody in the community has the responsibility of stopping the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS in the society.

**Conclusion**

The information presented by this article can be applied in the healthcare industry. For instance, when it comes to health promotion, the healthcare sector ought to take the leading role in ensuring that all the health promotion programs formulated by the government are effective. Promotion strategies require support from every sector, and therefore the health sector must ensure that it fully supports the government. In addition, when it comes to disease surveillance programs. The health sector must provide the government with relevant information in order for them to make informed decisions concerning disease prevention and control. This implies that the government agencies like CDC must work hand in hand with other agencies in the healthcare industry. The healthcare sector should also assist in the government in formulating health policies. Since they possess first-hand information relating the health of the nation, they must support the government in formulating policies that will benefit all citizens in the country.