Rosita Carbajal

Professor Mangini

Eng 100

Wednesday 6pm-9pm

Universal Health Care System for U.S and Role of the Government

 It is essential for the govt. of U.S to provide its citizens with free and quality health care services. Also, it will preclude medical bankruptcies in the whole country; it will serve as a power reduction element, the citizens will have a sense of contentment once the citizens have the feeling of protection about medical and financial situations it will leave a positive impact on their mental wellbeing. However, in the world of developed countries, U.S is the only one that doesn't deliver public funded healthcare facilities to all of its citizens. Further, the insurance companies in the United States are more profit oriented rather than providing quality health services (Drummond et al.). This case is not according to aim and priorities of the United States. Therefore, the government should focus on bringing major reforms in the healthcare sector to provide its citizens with free healthcare facilities which are the basic right of the citizens of United States.

The health care should not only be the privilege of elite class. In this regard, the most usual narrative is given in opposition to providing Universal healthcare coverage (UHC) free health services is that it’ll overburden the government financially. Subsequently, the taxpayers will have to pay more cost. For this purpose, the citizens of U.S must closely examine as to how much would be the cost and what amount will be too much to take up the initiative of free healthcare units across the country (Sridhar 499). The citizens who are already insured, they end up paying hefty amounts, and those without coverage are charged with an immeasurable amount (Betancourt et al.). So, there is uncertainty between publicly funded and insurance premium costs.

People with low income should have provision to pay fewer amounts for their current premium. UHC is a quality service and even it costs a bit more, the citizens of the United States will have to decide as to what sort of environment they would like to live in, what are their priorities. What is their priority for their next generations? A system which has deep roots of capitalism and which outshines individualism, under such circumstances the concept of care is marginalized. Now, this is the time for U.S citizens to realize the significance of free healthcare without taking into account the costs. The universal health care (UHS) is a practice that yields the core values of care of people. In this regard, awareness campaigns should be run so to make people realize the significance of UHC and to make basic reforms in the infrastructure of healthcare.

Another mindset that stands against UHC in the United States says that other national health care systems such as that of Canada, England, and France are facing serious problems or are almost bankrupt. Critics of UHC also come up with the arguments that the patients in these counties have to wait long to receive treatment and even for basic level of health care they are in long waiting lists which caused frustration in the patients especially critiques of this system quote the example of England that NHS is under heavy load of patients, often their walk-in centers are fully occupied, and as a result people go through long waiting times for their turns. This deficit is on the rise on a yearly basis. This claim is a mixture of truth and exaggerated stories. As for American, they need to evaluate the situation from its perspective. Although, this is true that patients have to wait long to receive treatment by the doctors in countries where UHC is in place but overall the situation is no different in the United States as people have to wait long to see the doctor, to avoid hassle people have to make one or two weeks advanced appointments only to make sure that they don’t have to wait too long outside doctor’s room. However, serious injuries or diseases of critical nature are always treated on priority abroad, almost same is the situation in the U.S.

In this scenario, the cost causes the main difference. There is a situation of uncertainty in the United States concerning costs; the condition is same for healthcare premium policyholders. On a daily basis, there is an increase in the cases of the cancer patient. For this purpose, choices are insufficient for patients as they are only left with the option of experimental treatment provided by a medical insurance company which is uncovered. As there is no coverage, patients are bound to pay for the treatment out of their pocket which is also an extra burden on the people of medium and low-income categories. Also, the patient can opt for less effective and relatively cheap treatment, but some disease requires most effective treatment and patients can't risk it. The situation can be worse for poor people as they can choose no treatment which of course could be lethal for them. Although all American can be trapped into an unwanted situation someday, many still opt to have financial risk rather than putting the health and financial welfare at stake.

The U.S citizens should urge their representatives to form UHC to have guaranteed and affordable coverage. The opponents will keep opposing the concept of UHC but for the implementation of UHC will save many lives. The question arises that why there was an acceptance of public education and no public health care? The Americans will have to think concerning society and not from an individual perspective. The way citizens think about education, the same way they should consider health. In most of the cases health comes earlier than education.

 In the USA public and private contributions are 45% and 55% respectively (Squires et al.). The sources of funding for UK and Germany are taxes. In Germany, that is designated for health services whereas, in UK revenue collected through taxes covers other expenditure as well.

Regarding the economy, a health system is classed as efficient, if it uses fewer resources and delivers the optimum level of results. On the other hand, it is called inefficient when too many resources are wasted to achieve high levels of health. The US health system is considered to be inefficient in comparison with UK NHS. In both systems, a lot of resources are wasted, and authorities carry out investigations without substantial medical grounds. The healthcare issue is the general election slogan of every political party, which indeed indicates that society needs a quality healthcare service.

 According to Michael Moore’s documentary “Where to Invade Next”, until lately, America and Finland had the same education policies. Whereas, recently, “*Finland is almost at the top of the ranking in terms of best-educated students in the world* (Moore)”. The way Finland has attained a level of education likewise, America can start bringing reforms in the health sector by adopting universal healthcare system (UHS). The ACA (Affordable Care Act) was introduced in 2010, which was an achievement of the Obama's presidency. The main aim of this act was to attain somehow universal access to healthcare with an enhanced level of quality (Geyman 217). Still, U.S. is struggling to attain Universal healthcare, as the interventions made till are not sufficient enough.

 The public funded health care system is considered favorable for society as a whole. While comparing the health situation of the U.S with other counties, there is a need of Universal healthcare system (UHS) in the country for improved health services and peace of mind of the citizens. The implementation of UHS highly depends upon the citizens of U.S as to how do they prioritize health. For this purpose, people need to develop their approach in the context of society not from their personal perspective. The health care should be dealt the same way the education is considered. The number of patients is increasing in the country. Therefore, sophisticated and structured healthcare services are in high demand than before. However, critiques present the viewpoint that this system will increase the overall expenses of government and the countries in which UHS is practiced, they are facing significant problems, and patients have to suffer long waiting time, they are right to some extent, but with the little careful approach, this issue can be resolved. The waiting times can be reduced, and services can be made smooth for citizens. The less privileged class should be given priority whereas, the wealthy can opt to pay full charges for the cure. So, the reforms of the primary structural levels are needed at the fundamental health care level as this is the service that people need more. The people with less income should pay less for the insurance premiums.

A well-structured and highly efficient healthcare system is not a simple facility to provide, and one of the challenging things for hospitals and medical care units is proper funding. There are three primary sources of funding these days, and these are private, insurance and state. In this regard, many people believe government should bear the full cost of healthcare and provide free medical care to all of the citizens of the country. The problem here is that the medical equipment for most of the medical care is highly expensive that is why if the government starts providing the care free of cost, it’ll have to bear a lot of expenses. For this purpose, the government should set the priority and subsidize the health care services for less privileged class and children (Young et al.). In this regard, the government should ensure the full payment of treatment from wealthy people of the society. The subsidies should be given according to the categories of income. A proper system of check and balance system should be deployed to ensure the smooth working of insurance companies. The government should also work to improve the necessary infrastructure of primary health as many citizens complain about the waiting time. Also, the emphasis should be laid on the critical types of disease as some diseases are more threatening to the society. Therefore, resources should be allocated to provide proper cure for that disease.

**Works Cited**

Betancourt, Joseph R., et al. "Defining Cultural Competence: A Practical Framework For Addressing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care." *Public Health Reports* (2016).

Drummond, Michael F., et al. *Methods For the Economic Evaluation of Eealth Care Programmes*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Folland, Sherman, Allen Charles Goodman, and Miron Stano. *The Economics of Health and Health Care: Pearson International Edition*. Routledge, 2016.

Geyman, John P. "A Five-Year Assessment of the Affordable Care Act: Market Forces Still Trump the Common Good in US Health Care." *International Journal of Health Services* 45.2 (2015): 209-225.

Moore, Michael. *Where to Invade Next*. Aec, 2016.

Squires, David, and Chloe Anderson. "US Health Care From a Global Perspective: Spending, Use of Services, Prices, and Health in 13 countries." *The Commonwealth Fund* 15 (2015): 1-16.

Sridhar, Devi, et al. "Universal health Coverage and the Right to Health: From Legal Principle to Post-2015 indicItors." *International Journal of Health Services* 45.3 (2015): 495-506.

Young, Kristina M., and Philip J. Kroth. *Sultz & Young's Health Care USA*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2017.