



Health for Economic Development

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Main Points

- How and when health performs as an economic engine of society?
- Health of a nation is the critical determinant of economic growth rather than the commonly considered paradigm in which economic conditions are the major determinants of health status
- Critical health indicators of a nation
- National agenda to improve health of the nation

Poverty and Poor Health

- The poorest 1.2 billion people in the world bear two third of the world communicable disease, maternal and prenatal mortalities and nutritional deficiencies.
- that more than 1 billion of the world's 2.2 billion children are denied one or more of the basic services required for them to grow, develop, and survive.
- That one third of all human deaths, 18 millions/year, die from poverty related-diseases.
- That with the reduced access to health care and reduced public spending, the burden of disease is disproportionately experienced in poor and developing countries.

Re-analysis of International Data (Dr. Hans Rosling of Sweden)

- Analysis revealed that
- There is a linear positive relationship between:
 - Improved health and economic growth.
 - Lower infant mortality rate and economic growth.
 - Lower maternal mortality rate and economic growth

Health as the Engine of Development (www.dcp2.org)

- Health care is central to well-being and a prerequisite for individual and national progress. Data shows that countries that have good national health indicators have a greater economic progress and development.
- In addition to affecting income levels and growth rates, better health has an intrinsic value that is high and (partially) measurable

How Health of a Nation is Measured

- By way of three major indicators
 - life expectancy (How long a member of a certain nation is likely to live)
 - infant mortality (The number of deaths within 1 year of birth per 1000)
 - maternal mortality ratio (Number of women who die giving birth per 100,000 live births)

Life expectancy

TYPICAL FINDINGS

- A 10% improvement in the life expectancy is associated with an increase in the economic growth rate of 0.3 – 0.4% per year (CMH, 2001).
- Reductions in adult mortality rates accounted for about 11% of recent economic growth (Jamison, Lau and Wang, 2006).

How Does Health Influences GDP (www.dcp2.org)

- Poor health reduces GDP per capita by reducing both labor productivity and the relative size of the labor force.
- Infant
 - Higher fertility and child mortality is associated with high dependency ratio
 - Child illness is associated with malnutrition, reduced schooling and reduced cognitive capacity
 - High dependency ratio is associated with reduced labor productivity and lower GDP per capita
- Life expectancy: Adult illness and malnutrition are associated
 - with reduced labor productivity
 - With reduced access to natural resources and global economy
 - With reduced investment in physical capital
 - All of these are associated with higher dependency ratio, and a net outcome of lower GDP per capita

Improving Health

- Higher incomes are not the only answer*
- Income growth is neither necessary nor sufficient to improve health.
- The generation and diffusion of new knowledge and products underpinned the enormous improvements in health of the 20th century
 - Need a multipronged strategy
 - Including focus on education
 - health benefits of educated mother

The Role of Health and Health Systems

- Health serves as:
 - an input and
 - outcome of development
- Health Sector organization and systems within country

Redefining Health and Health Care

- Health and health care is integral to the common agenda of economic development
- Health and health care is a national priority and as such must be integrated in other economic sectors priorities
- Interdisciplinary initiatives and collaborations
- Regional collaboration (Qatar workshop)