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Sociology

**Introduction to healthcare**

The term health refers to the physical, mental and social wellbeing of a person. To be healthy, one must be physically, mentally, emotionally and socially secure and active.

The topic under discussion that is healthcare is the preservation/ betterment of physical and mental wellbeing of people through the care, identification, and examination and care for any sickness, ill health, damage, and other physical and mental malfunctioning in human beings.

**Healthcare systems**

In many countries of the world, especially in the developed countries, there are health care systems that enable their citizens to access to quality health facilities and take care of any health issues that are faced by them. Countries like Germany, France, UK, Canada and Singapore etc. have elaborate and well-functioning healthcare systems.

When it comes to gauge the functioning and goals of a health care system there are three basic things that come into play namely access, quality of care and cost. A good healthcare system should be accessible to the public, should provide quality care to the diseases and the costs should be in a range that is affordable for the middle and lower middle class income groups.

**Canadian healthcare system**

Now let’s look at the Canadanian healthcare system

The Canadian system started off with a  [health insurance program](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-care-system/reports-publications/health-care-system/canada.html) at provincial level which bore the costs of universal hospital (1947) and cost of doctors (1962). The expenditures were taken care of on a 50/50 % basis with the federal government for health institutions (1957) and for physicians or practitioners (1968) (Clements et al.). During 1960s, other governments at provincial and territorial levels followed this system and till 1972 it was prevalent all over Canada. Then came the “National Medical Care Insurance Act” (1968) that made the federal government to bear 50% of the cost of the insurances at provincial levels.

The [main](https://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Canada_Health_Act.htm) features of Canada’s system are: easy access to public, compendious, flexibility, good administration of public insurances and universality. However, the system faces problems also. Canada’s system is believed to be “[mediocre at best](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2017/jul/mirror-mirror-international-comparisons-2017)”. But U.S healthcare system is more costly and less efficient as compared to the Canadian system (Ginter et al.).

The effective team work in healthcare in Canada results in the identification of weak areas that need improvement and consequently result in better outcomes for the patients and better team coordination. This also decreases the errors made during work (Clements et al.)

Also there are rules and regulations that apply to the big pharmaceuticals and are checked for the economic activities or situations which is an important factor that contributes to the quality of Canadian healthcare.

My research shows that Canada spends approximately about 228 billion dollars (2016) on healthcare and corresponding to 6,299 dollars per person**.** Whereas U.S spends 3.5 trillion (2017) which makes for eighteen percent of U.S total income which is more than any other developed country’s spending but still almost half (46.1%) deaths owing to diseases were due to either cancer, heart diseases or respiratory diseases. Also the quality of the medical service is also compromised in U.S as medical errors are also a leading cause of deaths and thousands of people die every year due to such errors (Freemantle et al.).

It is researched upon that if the amount spent on home care is increased to two hundred dollars to allocate for the costs of self-care and for professionals’ services will lead to a saving of two hundred and fifty dollars every day for the patients or put in other words seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars each day for some three thousand patients in Ontario. It will lead to a whole of 273,750,000 dollars every year in amount spent in hospitals. But such investments will count if we see that:

• Estimates as that of the Public Health Agency of Canada highlighted the Canadians spend a hundred and ninety billion dollars every year on the “Chronic diseases” in direct and indirect costs

• According to the World Economic Forum, due to the chronic diseases the Canadians suffer from, lead to loss in productivity about four hundred percent more than the money spend directly on the treatment of the diseases.

• The study of the “Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention and Management” in 2007 revealed that only in Ontario if then expenses on the chronic diseases were reduced by a mere ten percent, there could be a 1.2 billion dollar worth of savings (Manns et al.). The government of Canada is actively working on these and other related aspects of the healthcare system.

**Challenges**

Canada’s health-care system faces some issues as well. Firstly, post late 1970s, the federal governments have lessened the money allocations towards the system. Secondly, the costs of the hospital insurance have been ever increasing. Canada spent about 11.1% of her total income on healthcare which was approximately 7% back in 1975. The money spent per head in Canada costs for around 6000 Canadian dollars which makes the Canadian healthcare more costly as compared to other developed nations. Moreover, the Canadian healthcare system is practically more responsive and accessible to the main chronic illness issues like heart diseases and cancer than it is for other non-chronic issues. It seems like the patients of chronic diseases are prioritized over other patients.

Also there is some need of repairing and redesigning of the system in the areas in which it is weak and not so efficient. Research and analysis still needs to be carried out in light of which there would be initiated any essential reforms in the Canadian healthcare system.

Work Cited

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