

The COVID-19 and public health in India- challenges & opportunities

Vandana Dabla

Delhi State AIDS Control Society, India

India, the second most populated country in the world has been restoring and re-strategizing its health policies and guidelines ever since the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has concerned its 1.3 billion population. With the large immunization goal to varied infrastructure challenges, the country had faced more than 3 million COVID-19 positive cases with little less than half a million mortality.

The public health space has ever since become more receptive in accepting the worthwhile collaborations with corporate partners and private health players. This includes recognising the benefits of public private partnership for realising national health interest. Another challenge was the Research and Innovation, which India worked upon critically. Further, alliances with foreign actors for the development of COVID-19 vaccine, has further the value of partnerships in achieving common sustainable development goals (SDG).

Financial allocation and public health infrastructure were some other challenges which created an opportunity to think through. Similarly, country's interest in accelerating its technological expansion in the healthcare arena took the front seat and helped in ensuring service delivery to the thick population spread across different geographical landscape.

Nonetheless, the unprecedented pandemic unveiled varied challenges grappled in the Indian health system, which has provided an opportunity to further improve the country's health approach and re-examining of its overall health strategies.

Biography

Vandana Dabla is a renowned public health specialist with over 15 years of expertise in Policy Design, Program Implementation, Health Systems Strengthening & Capacity Building. She carries an extensive expertise in HIV/ AIDS & HIV-TB programme and lead a large team as Deputy Director with Delhi State AIDS Control Society, Govt of NCT of Delhi, in addition to her remarkable contribution in health operations at International Diplomatic Mission and leading corporate healthcare institutions. Currently, she is supporting Ministry of Health & Family welfare for Workforce Development in Epidemiology Training Programme.