

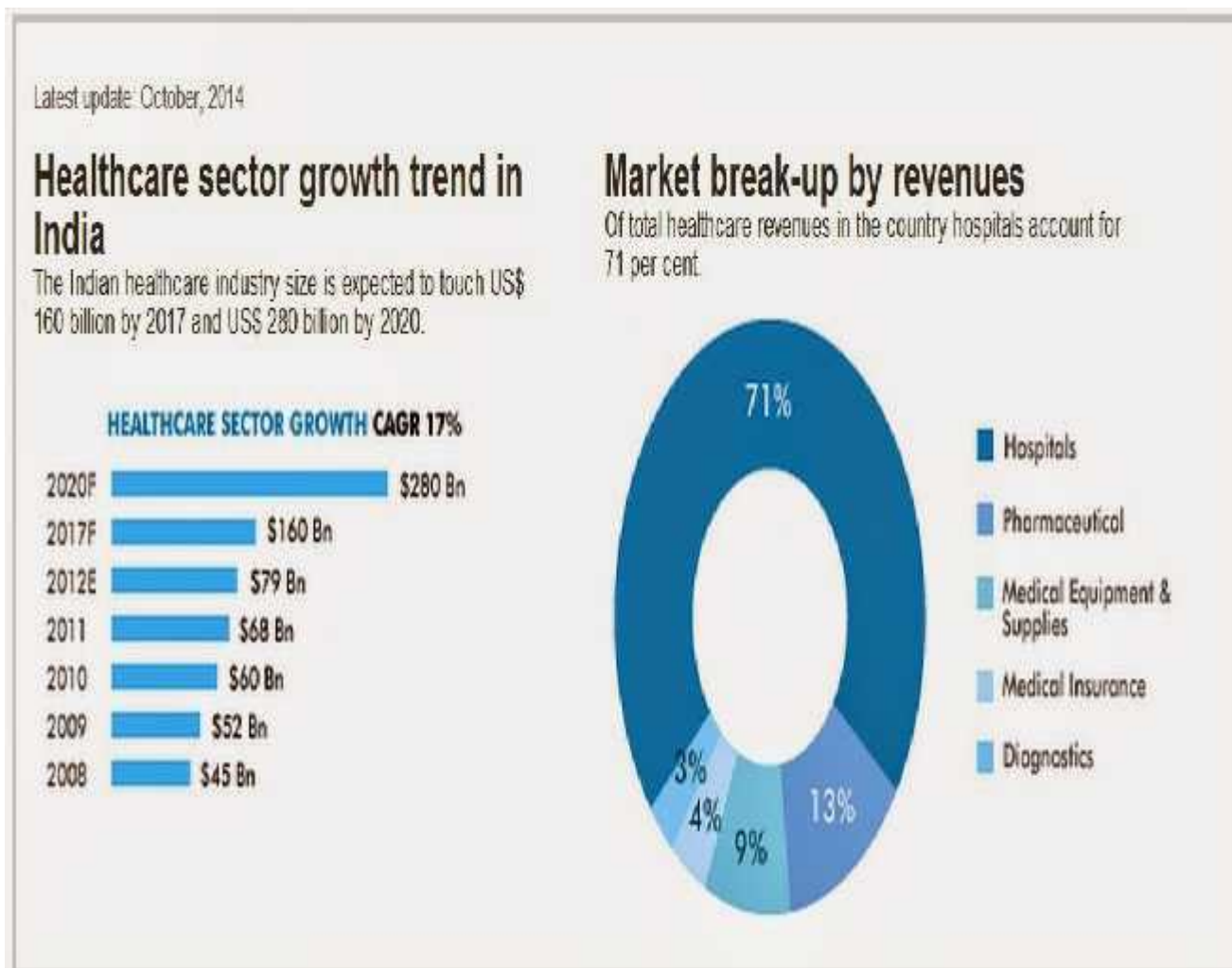
IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION IN INDIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION

Globalization is characterized by the circulation of goods and services between countries in response to criteria of efficiency. Such multilateral agreements between countries, unfortunately, often function to the detriment of the countries with less developed economies. Nevertheless, trade can also benefit developing countries. Outsourcing is one situation in which developing countries that are able to adopt standards, processes, and language of developed countries can benefit from the liberalization of the movement of goods and services. By undertaking some or all components of production or service provision for clients/consumers in the developed country, some economic benefits may occur to the developing country where the 'outsourced' service is provided.



Though different in many respects from other types of services, health care services are also impacted by globalization. For example, some countries, especially developing ones, can attract customers by offering high quality health care at a lower cost than is available in their home country. And although this practice is relatively uncommon at the present time, our hypothesis is that, within a short time, this practice will greatly expand, partly due to the development of global standards of quality and the rise of processes of accreditation, both in health care and medical education.

Globalization has also positively affected the overall health care situation in the country. More and more medical innovations are coming in which are improving the health situation in India. The infant mortality rate and the malnutrition rate have significantly come down since the last decade.

Globalization is the integration of economic, political, and cultural systems across the globe. Globalization is termed as the growing political, social, cultural, economic and technological interconnectedness and interdependence of the world.

The world is getting smaller as the markets and people are becoming more accessible to one another resulting in globalization. This shift is due to communication technologies advancement and overlaps of cultures and influences of culture on each other. In addition, an increase in international trade has created an economic interdependence between many countries. This process has effects on the environment, on culture, political systems, economic development and prosperity, and on personal or physical well-being in societies around the world.

The global nature and growth of globalization has forced mixed range of responses and opinions some are pro globalization others are against it. Anti-globalization protests have appeared across the globe. Supporters of globalization face anti-immigration movements in Western Europe and the United States, opposition to the removal of trade barriers and backlash against western cultural influence in many states. Yet anti-globalization protesters often benefit from the very process that they are opposing through internet technology, international markets and global interdependence.

Globalization affects all facets of human life, including health and well-being. Though different in many respects from other types of services, health care services are greatly impacted by international shift of various services. Globalization has increased the need for countries to look beyond their borders in order to promote effective health care strategies. The increase in healthcare costs and insurance premiums has led to medical outsourcing in terms of healthcare tourism, telemedicine and medical researchers.

Healthcare has become a social policy and a worldwide concern that is subject to globalization. Globalization has affected the consolidation of a global sphere of policy within the US at the national as well as the state level and the dispersion of health practices to countries worldwide.

FACTORS INFLUENCING GLOBALIZATION

There are several factors which are acting as catalysts to augment globalization in healthcare. Innovation in multiple areas such as better reimbursement processes, IT implementation, facilities to practice evidence-based medicine, and the availability of skilled leadership available at lower costs in other developing nations is leading to a rapid spread of healthcare globally. Having highly trained radiology technicians in India reading their scans over night is just one specific example of how timely healthcare decisions can be made for patients.

Cost of Key HealthCare Procedures				
Currency: USD	US	Thailand	India	India HC cost-x of US
Cardiac surgery	50,000	14,250	4,000	12.5
Bone marrow transplant	62,500	62,500	30,000	13.33
Liver transplant	500,000	75,000	45,000	11.11
Orthopaedic surgery	16,000	6,900	4,500	3.56

Venture groups within large multinational corporations and standalone western venture funds are now setting funds to invest in emerging market growth opportunities and therefore adding more risk or reward component to their existing assets. There is universal access to information enabling increased innovation in China, India and other emerging countries.

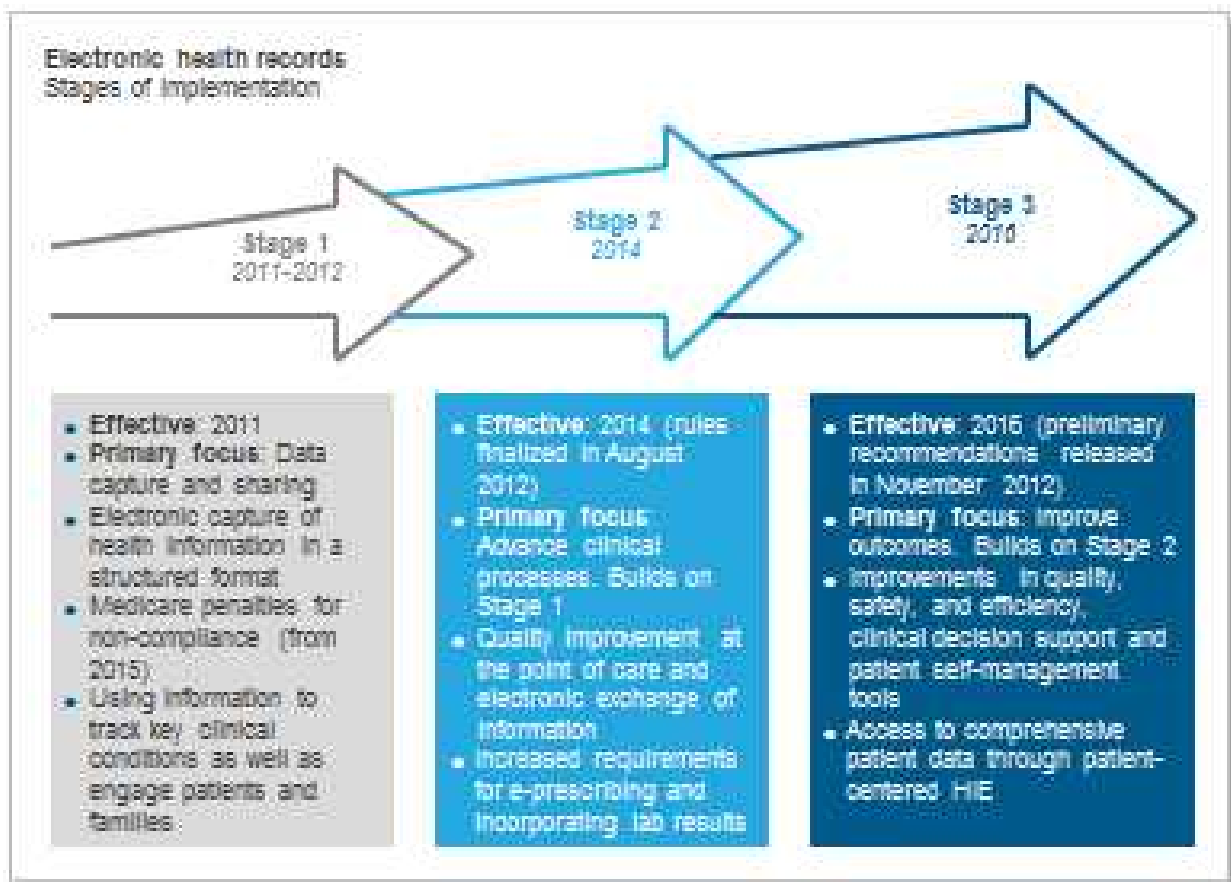
CHALLENGES IN GLOBALIZATION OF HEALTHCARE

Impact of globalization could lead to divide between the reach of rich and poor with overseas companies targeting to people with more profit margins and easy access rather than people with poor healthcare availability and low-income groups who need more attention. The spread of healthcare also poses some threats such as greater risk of diseases being transported unintentionally between nations. It is harder for smaller businesses to establish themselves in the globalized economy such as small pharmaceutical companies and nonprofit organizations helping people in the under developed countries. There are a lot of political and legal roadblocks within the international sphere as lot of countries doesn't follow guidelines mandated by UN policy makers, which make it difficult for easy flow of similar procedures being carried out locally in a different country.

IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBALIZATION IN HEALTHCARE

In the future Public health will play a central role in assessing the effect of expenditure and result. Around the world, health systems are changing because of financial and technological pressures. However, for public health workers to play an active role in achieving these outcomes they must engage in a new kind of debate that is more economical and management oriented than in the past.

A number of outside factors will affect healthcare in the future. In the past twenty years the occurrence of natural disasters have quadrupled. Environmental factors will influence healthcare delivery such as disaster relief management by Red Cross and nonprofit organization irrespective of boundaries. In the future Technology will help improve patient safety by better leveraging information technology to improve the efficiency, accuracy, and effectiveness of our healthcare system. Technology will also help in improving healthcare quality, prevent medical errors, reduce healthcare costs and increase administrative efficiencies by decreasing paperwork.



Interoperable health IT will improve individual patient care, but it will also bring many public health benefits including early detection of infectious disease outbreaks around the globe, it will also help to improve tracking of chronic disease management and evaluation of health care based on value enabled by the collection of known price and quality information that can be compared.

In the future the focus of healthcare will move increasingly out of the acute care hospital, and back to clinics, to doctor's offices, and even into schools, workplaces and the home. The focus will change away from intervening in the acute phase of the disease, and toward early screening, detection, and treatment, and even toward preventing the disease in the first place.

OUTSOURCING OF HEALTHCARE

Medical tourists have good cause to seek out care beyond the United States for many reasons. In some regions of the world, state of the art medical facilities are hard to come by, if they exist at all; in other countries, the public health care system is so overburdened that it can take years to get needed care. In Britain and Canada for instance, the waiting period for a hip replacement can be a year or more, while in Bangkok or Bangalore, a patient can be in the operating room the morning after getting off a plane.

Top Reasons to Outsource



The countries offering medical tourism offer it at a low price. The cost of surgery in India, Thailand or South Africa can be one-tenth of what it is in the United States or Western Europe, and sometimes even less. The hospitals and clinics that cater to the tourist market often are among the best in the world, and many are staffed by physicians trained at major medical centers in the United States and Europe.

One such area where future trend will continue to grow due to high cost of healthcare or wait times for procedures is health tourism. It is available in developed nations and the ease and affordability of international travel, and improvements in technology and standards of care in many countries of the world has encouraged many health related procedures being carried out in developing countries such as Bolivia, Argentina, Cuba, India, Thailand, Colombia, Philippines or South Africa.

Policy making and public services administration is a tough job, national governments alone cannot address a range of critical issues, including healthcare issues, terrorism, trade liberalization, economic integration, infectious diseases, and worldwide environmental issues such as climate change. Scholars have highlighted the need for international policymaking for years and the theoretical logic of organizing collective action on a scale proportional to these threats is well understood. In the future global policy making government will expand.



WHO and policy makers also play a significant role in agenda setting and consensus building across a spectrum of global public health issues. World Health Organization plays a range of roles from supervising nation to nation negotiations to a much more substantive role in addressing international health crises. World Governments are increasingly working together to address global health problems and health threats. This type of governance might therefore refer to any number of policymaking processes and institutions that help to manage international interdependence such as negotiation by nation states leading to a treaty, dispute settlement within an international organization, rule making by international bodies in support of treaty implementation, development of government backed codes of conduct, guidelines, and norms, pre negotiation agenda settings and issue analysis in support of treaty making also technical standard setting to facilitate trade, networking and policy coordination by regulators, structured public private efforts at norm creation and private sector policymaking activities are important issues.

CONCLUSION

Traditionally, the health sector has been closed and nationally focused, but this is beginning to change.

Examples of the globalization of health include:

- a) The increasing mobility of health professionals across borders; for example, the United Kingdom now actively recruits nurses from developing countries.
- b) The increasing mobility of health consumers (people); for example, patients travelling abroad to access medical care.
- c) The increase in private companies, including foreign companies, which provide health services and health insurance schemes.
- d) The use of new technologies, such as the Internet, to provide health services across borders and to remote regions within countries.

A measure of the globalization of a health system would include its degree of openness to foreign goods, services, ideas and policies, and people. It is the turn of health care delivery to be globalized. Nevertheless, health cannot be assumed to be the same as other basic goods. Linked to health care are many complex ethical, cultural, and human resource issues that we have only begun to name. Further, it is the duty of health professionals to promote health as a global human right.

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