

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) - THE PANACEA OF A PANDEMIC

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World Health Organization (WHO) is an international organization of global health and a guiding force to maintain the public health, preventive as well as curative in nature.^[1]

From primary health care to tertiary care it has played its pivotal role creating global awareness and preparedness to face pandemics whether it is obesity or obesity related disorders to infectious diseases. It has a global platform for experts in different fields to come together for developing policies, strategies, guidelines that are preventive as well as curative in nature.

WHO workforce has played their role in devising and executing remedies for disease management and control. The team with its leader has guided nations to tackle epidemics at the national level and pandemics at the global level.

Its research team work day in and day out to combat various areas like AIDS, Ebola, Diabetes or cardio vascular diseases or any other health disaster that need concerted and coordinated efforts to tackle the disease.

WHO like UN is funded by developed Nations? The working of WHO is transparent, democratic and practical because of the dedicated work force and its administrators. The USA and NATO along with other nations' funding allow WHO run autonomously to fulfill the principles of providing and safeguarding health of the citizens with the co-operation of signatory nations.

Every citizen of every nation is grateful to the WHO for its role in maintaining and safeguarding the health of the global citizens. It has a team of visionaries and experts in the organization.

A question lurks in the minds of many why WHO as well as individual nations did not foresee or prepare or plan the global community to face COVID-19 pandemic. When the world has experienced pandemics like Spanish flu or SARS or MERS or Ebola a question arises why the warning of WHO regarding epidemics is not translated into action by the individual nations.^[2]

Is it because it is not the immediate health concern of developed Nations like non-communicable diseases and other obesity related disorders. Pharma industries had paid more attention towards innovating drugs to fight such non-communicable diseases. The drugs that are manufactured to fight primary health diseases including bacterial or parasitic or viral infections are scarce or not well funded.

We witness the deaths of many helpless innocent citizens all over the world due to COVID 19 pandemic due to lack of primary health care. From leaders to pavement dwellers became victims to the viral attack. Between the victim and the virus stand the health care personnel to save lives, some losing their lives at the altar of service to humanity. Ordinary citizens of the world have placed their safety in the hands of the nation or the global organizations like WHO. Corporate culture and corporate health stand mute to the human tragedy unfolding before their eyes.

We have seen globalization to meet out economic necessity and economic gains. We have seen scientific minds so successful to send machines and men to space, even to Mars. But we have forgotten that earth has become a dangerous place to live not because of nuclear weapons or climate change or global warming but because of a tiny virus that takes control of the human machinery.

As a citizen of the world to whom we can refer asking for justice to the unexpected loss of lives without human dignity, dying in isolation or to a lack of oxygen supply to the inflamed lung and soul of the dying humanity.

“Reverence for Life” so said Dr. Albert Schweitzer.^[3] WHO’s service to the world is to maintain the dignity of human life and also to seek protection from such calamity in the days to come.

One of the principles of the World Health organization (WHO) constitution is that.

“The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States” along with the directives that deal with health of the people.

- “To act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work;”
- “To study and report on, in co-operation with other specialized agencies where necessary, administrative and social techniques affecting public health and medical care from preventive and curative points of view, including hospital services and social security;”

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." So said

-- Muhammad Ali

If WHO has to continue to guide individual nations to protect the global community and save lives from such calamities its autonomy needs to be maintained. Funding nations need to safeguard such autonomy so that its service could reach every nation developed or developing or underdeveloped. COVID-19 pandemic has leveled all, without discrimination afflicted all races with no geographical or ethnic differences or status. It has posed such a challenge to WHO to find a solution to safeguard humanity from such pandemics.

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