

CBSE Class – VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
Political Science Chapter 02
Role of the Government in Health

Question 1. In this chapter you have read that health is a wider concept than illness. Look at this quote from the Constitution and explain the terms ‘living standard’ and ‘public health’ in your own words.

An important part of the Constitution says it is the “duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health.”

Solution:

Living Standard refers to the level of wealth, comfort, material goods, and necessities available to a certain socioeconomic class in a country. In well constructed urban areas, standard of living is far better in comparison to underdeveloped rural areas. Clean, pollution free surroundings lead to good living standards whereas living in regions of dirty, poor sanitation, dusty lands leads to poor living standards.

Public Health is the wellness of all people, irrespective of caste, religion, gender, or economic status to remain healthy and free from any disease. Right to life is everyone's right without any discrimination. That is why the healthcare is "public" and every individual is entitled to healthcare provided by the government.

Question 2. What are the different ways through which the government can take steps to provide healthcare for all? Discuss.

Solution: The different ways through which the government can take steps to provide healthcare for all are:

1. The government could increase the number of hospitals or medical vans in rural and remote places for better access to healthcare.
2. Sanitation facilities and proper drainage system could be improved.
3. With the help of different agencies, the government could provide efficient filters for clean and safe drinking water.
4. Proper garbage dumps and disposable bags should be provided and maintained.
5. Through different campaigns and educational programmes, people should be made aware of different health problems. For example, people are made aware of diseases such as diarrhea and dysentery due to poor hygiene through advertisements.
6. Special treatment must be there for women, who are a vital part of our society. Specialised care is needed for young mothers and pregnant women, especially those who live in remote areas.
7. Medicines should be available either at free costs or at very low costs.
8. Even proper toilets and washrooms should be made and maintained at every corner.

9. The government should also invest more in healthcare and ensure that funds are used appropriately for providing the public with healthcare facilities. These are some of the ways for the improvement of health of our public which if implemented properly, could definitely bring a positive change in our society.

Question 3. What differences do you find between private and public health services in your area? Use the following table to compare and contrast these.

Solution:

Facility	Cost of Services	Availability of service
Private	Expensive (high cost)	The service is easily available as the private health centers use modern and advanced techniques. They are also not very crowded.
Public	Cheap (low cost)	It is difficult to avail proper services as there is a lack of equipment. The public health centers are very crowded and service is very slow and inefficient.

The table above concludes that private health centers provide efficient quality services. Doctors are well educated and qualified and provide best facilities to their patients, and hence the health centers are costly. On the other hand, public health centers, lacking in infrastructure, provide services which don't match with the advanced techniques used by private ones but these facilities are cheaper in cost and are easily used by poor people.

Question 4. 'Improvement in water and sanitation can control many diseases.' Explain with the help of examples.

Solution:

Improvement in water and sanitation can control numerous diseases especially water borne diseases. There are several diseases that spread through contaminated water, for example, cholera, malaria, jaundice, typhoid, diarrhea, dysentery, etc.

By ensuring that clean safe water is available to all, such diseases can be prevented.

Examples -

- Regular checks of water coolers, roof tops and wherever the water is stagnant should be conducted in every house. These checks could prevent mosquito breeding and could save many lives.
- The government should check the quality of water provided at regular intervals. Proper checks on waste disposal and sewerage treatment should be ensured.
- People should be educated on the consequences of the consumption and use of contaminated water. That way, the diseases can be controlled.