

## Concept Note

### World Universal Health Coverage Day 2021

Universal Health Coverage was set up as one of the targets while adopting SDGs in 2015. In 2019, this commitment was acknowledged by several countries at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC. Goal 3 of SDG - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages cannot be achieved without addressing target 3.8 universal health coverage in a holistic and comprehensive manner as most other health targets are dependent on this. India is committed to providing universal health care for all by 2030.

Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) under the National Health Protection Scheme was introduced in 2018 as a step toward achieving (UHC). UHC means ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their financial situation, have access to all aspects of health care, such as prevention, treatment, promotion, rehabilitation, and palliation. The notion encompasses three main components: accessibility, quality, and financial security. In India, out-of-pocket expenditure accounts for 62.67 percent of overall health spending, compared to the global average of 20.5 percent. Current health insurance schemes leave a large portion of the population uncovered, subjecting them to catastrophic health expenditures as a result of health shocks.

Healthcare workers play a very important role in achieving the UHC. India has a very poor doctor patient and nurse patient ratio putting a further strain on the already overburdened healthcare system. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for trained healthcare workforce to deliver quality healthcare services in times of health emergencies. During the pandemic, trained professionals were diverted to manage COVID 19 patients, leaving health emergency services and chronic illness treatment programs neglected, with widespread disruptions for rural and vulnerable populations. Healthcare workers like nurses, pharmacists, counselors etc, stepped up and reached villages and other populations to provide the much needed information and services like vaccination, maternal care, prescription refills for communicable diseases like TB and much more.

With this context, Dakshayani and Amaravati Health and Education, and PAIR - Patient Academy for Innovation and Research are jointly organising an event on the occasion of **World Universal Health Coverage Day 2021**. The event is scheduled for December 14th, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm IST. The theme is **"Healthcare Workforce- The first pillar for Achieving Universal Health Coverage"**.

This event will be a panel discussion with 3-4 speakers presenting their views on the role of nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare workers role in achieving UHC, steps and strategies that can be adopted at various levels of healthcare to achieve Universal Health Coverage. The session will also debate over the solutions, and learnings from the pandemic that can be taken as a way forward to achieve UHC.