



Child and Adolescent Healthcare Systems of the World

For Prelims: National Health Mission (NHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Anemia Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

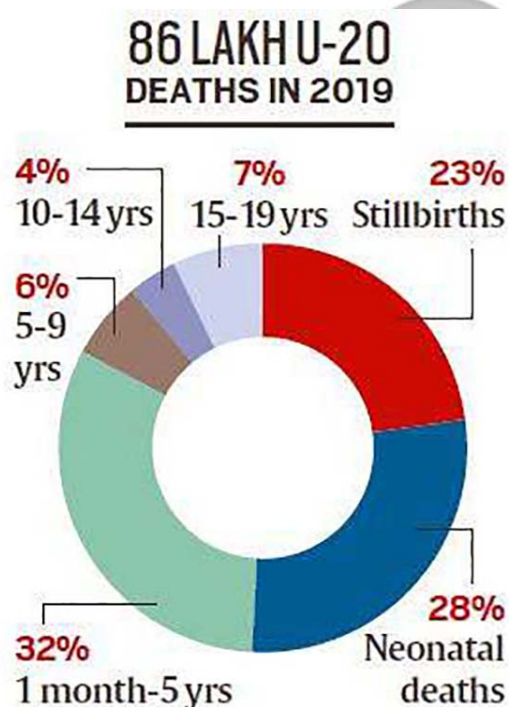
For Mains: Child and Adolescent Healthcare Systems in India and related issues

Why in News?

Recently, a series on Child and Adolescent Healthcare Systems of the World was published in the Lancet Global Health Journal.

- **A series of four papers set out the current position**, with the gains that have been made globally, which **points out the stark variations** in the global scenario, with some nations showing more marked improvements than others.

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What are the Major Findings of the Series?

- According to estimate, over **8.62 million deaths occurred** between 28 weeks of gestation and 20 years of age in 2019.
 - **Stillbirths (23%) and neonatal deaths (28%)** together accounted for over half these deaths, while **another one-third (32%)** of the deaths occurred in children between one month and five years of age.

- It **records the advancements as contributing to a fall in [child mortality](#)** and morbidity.
 - However, **there are huge inequities**, and several children and adolescents do not thrive or survive because low-cost interventions are not deployed to their benefit.

What about the impact of Pandemic?

- The **[Covid-19 pandemic](#)** showed the **devastating effects that gaps in care and education can have on children**.
 - **Health and social systems must be better equipped to work together** to address the emerging needs of children and families as part of the effort to rebuild equitable and resilient services.
- The **challenges faced in responding to the needs of children and families** during the **Covid-19 pandemic** should serve as a wake-up call to the global community, underlining the urgent need to transform the child and adolescent health agenda on a global scale.

What are the Recommendations?

- **Piecemeal Approach is Needed:**
 - The series, while **calling for efforts to reimagine the delivery of services** that will help children thrive, **mentions that a piecemeal approach**, catering only to certain age groups may not be the best way to handle the crises.
- **Comprehensive Care is Needed:**
 - The authors **call for comprehensive care that spans nutrition, preventive health, education, economic, and community support** across age groups from preconception through the age of 20.
 - The **close involvement of families**, particularly in offering support right from the stage of pregnancy, continuing through the relevant years allowing the child to bloom, is also recommended strongly.
- **Evidence-based Interventions are Needed:**
 - While **calling for scaling-up of evidence-based interventions** for children under five years,
 - The authors **highlighted interventions for school-going children** and the period of transition from childhood to adolescence.
 - This **includes recommendations to support mental health**, address unintentional injuries, [non-communicable diseases](#), and [neglected tropical diseases](#).

What are the Related Initiatives taken by India?

- [National Health Mission \(NHM\)](#)
- [Mid Day Meal Scheme](#)
- [Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyan](#)
- [PM Poshan](#)
- [The National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana \(PMMVY\)](#)
- [Integrated Child Development Scheme](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'? (2017)

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.

4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 3 and 4 only

Ans: (a)

- National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI, which ensures convergence with various programmes like Anganwadi services, National Health Mission, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Swachh-Bharat Mission, etc.
- The goals of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time bound manner during the next three years beginning 2017- 18. Hence, 1 is correct.
- NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight of babies. Hence, 2 is correct.
- There is no such provision relating to consumption of millets, unpolished rice, coarse cereals and eggs under NNM. Hence, 3 and 4 are not correct.

Source: TH

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