

Social Science Textbook for Class 7, Social and Political Life-II

Chapter 2: Role of the Government in Health

Report of the changes (pages 22, 23, 24, 26, 29 and 122)

Page 22: (storyboard)

Last paragraph, last line: "He prescribed... Replace "lots of" with some.

Page 23: (Last panel in the storyboard)

Existing	Revised
My hospital was nice, but they gave me too many medicines and the whole thing cost more than Rs 3,500!	My hospital was nice, but they gave me many medicines and the whole thing cost quite a lot!
That much! My treatment cost just Rs 150!	Oh! My treatment did not cost much!

Page 24: (Change the sequence of the questions in the left column)

1. Where do you go when you are ill? Are there any problems that you face? Write a paragraph based on your experience.
2. What problems did Aman face in the government hospital? How do you think the hospital can work in a better manner? Discuss.
3. Why did Ranjan have to spend so much money? Give reasons.
4. What problems do we face in private hospitals? Discuss.

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Page 26: Delete the following words in the paragraph beginning with "In India..."

"As these services are run for profit"

Existing	Revised
"In order to earn more money, these private services encourage practices that are incorrect. At times cheaper methods, though available, are not used. For example, it is common to find doctors prescribing unnecessary medicines, injections or saline bottles when tablets or simple medicines can suffice." (45 words)	Some private services indulge in unethical or unfair practices to earn more money. At times inexpensive alternatives, though available, may not be used. For example, some medical practitioners are found to prescribe superfluous medicines, injections or saline when simple medication may suffice. (42 words)

The following box and the question are to be included in the left column on page 26.

The Medical Council of India's Code of Medical Ethics states: "Every physician should, as far as possible, prescribe drugs with **generic names** and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs."

How can health care be made more affordable? Discuss.

Page 29: Replace the existing table with a new table:

Facility	Affordability	Availability	Quality
Private			
Public			

Glossary: Include the following terms:

Ethics: Moral principles that influence a person's behaviour

Generic names: These are Chemical names of the drugs. They help in identifying the ingredients. They are globally recognised. For example, acetyl salicylic acid is the generic name of Aspirin.

Page 122 (References): Include the following:

- Medical Council of India,
<http://www.mciindia.org/Rules-and-Regulation/Ethics%20Regulations-2002.pdf>
- Supreme Court of India, Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity of Ors. Vs. State of West Bengal & Anr. (Hakim Seikh case, date of judgment: 6 May 1996,
<http://judis.nic.in/supremecourt/imgs1.aspx?filename=15597>)
- World Health Organization, *Essential medicines and health products*,
<http://www.who.int/medicines/services/inn/en/>

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THE COST OF A CURE

Aman and Ranjan are good friends. While Ranjan comes from a well-to-do family, Aman's parents have to struggle to make ends meet...



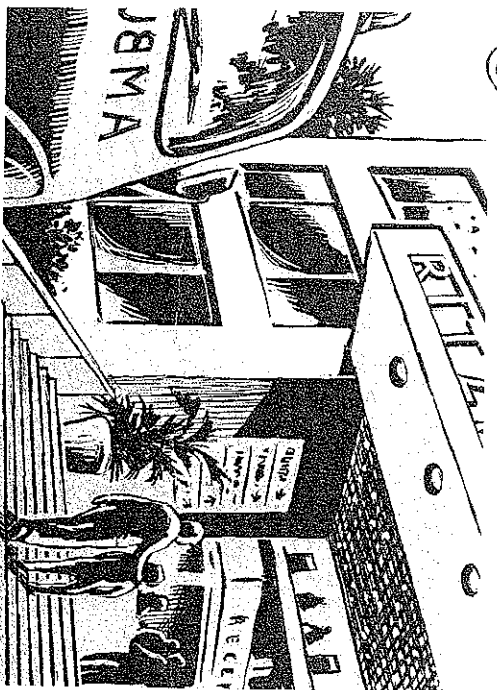
I had viral fever and had to go to the hospital...



The building looked so posh. I thought it was a five star hotel! Daddy said that was because it was a private hospital, with the best of facilities.

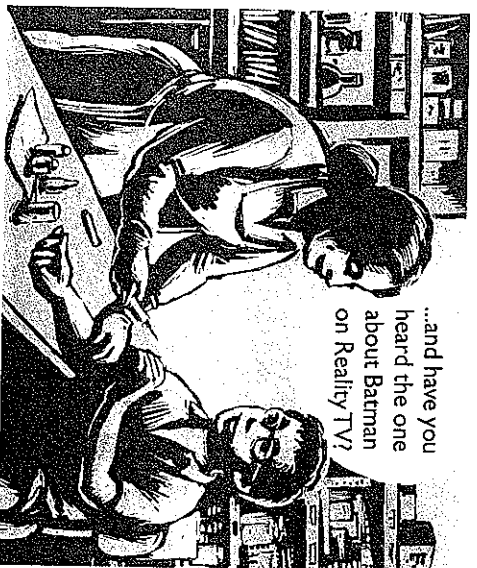


Daddy had to pay Rs 500 at the reception counter itself – before we even met the doctor! There was nice music playing and everything was really clean and shiny.

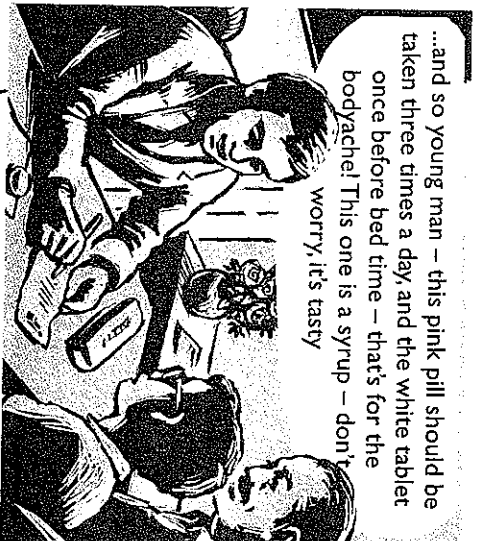


The doctor asked for many tests...but everyone was so friendly! The lady who took my blood for testing told me so many jokes that I forgot to feel the pain!

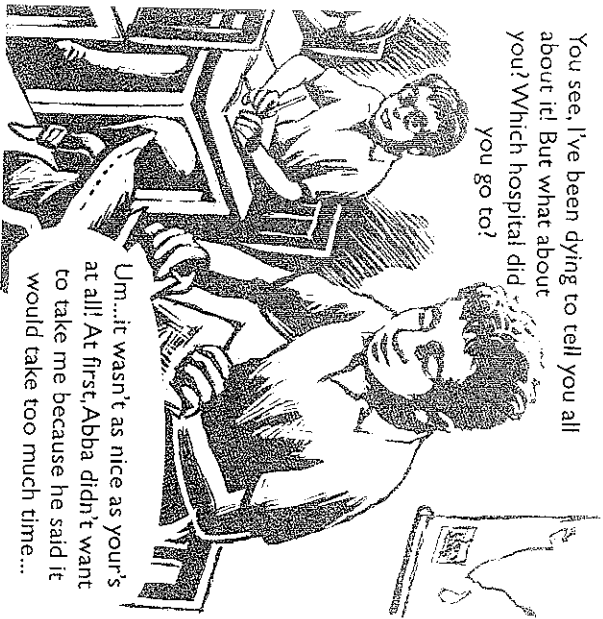
After the test results came, we went back to the doctor. He looked through them and said everything was fine, and I only had viral fever. He prescribed some medicines and rest.



...and so young man – this pink pill should be taken three times a day and the white tablet once before bed time – that's for the bodyache! This one is a syrup – don't worry, it's tasty



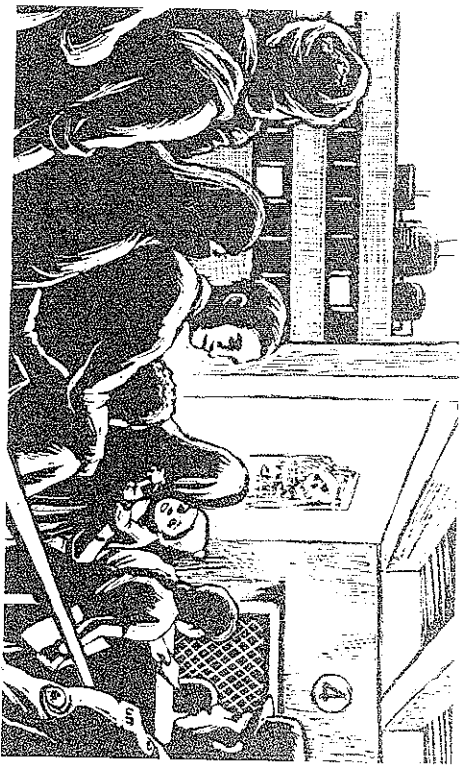
You see, I've been dying to tell you all about it! But what about you? Which hospital did you go to?



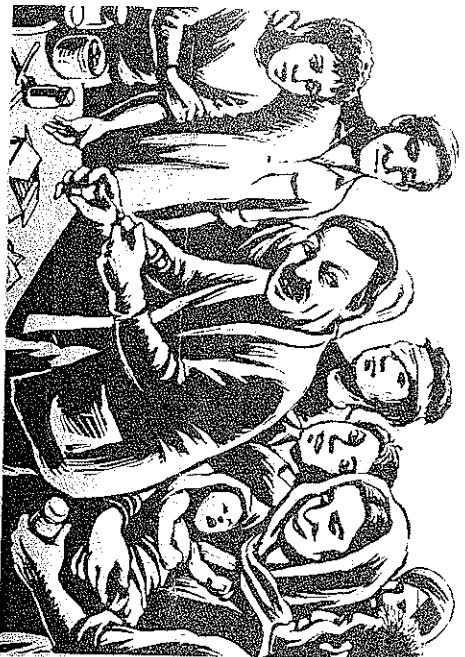
Um...it wasn't as nice as your's at all! At first, Abba didn't want to take me because he said it would take too much time...



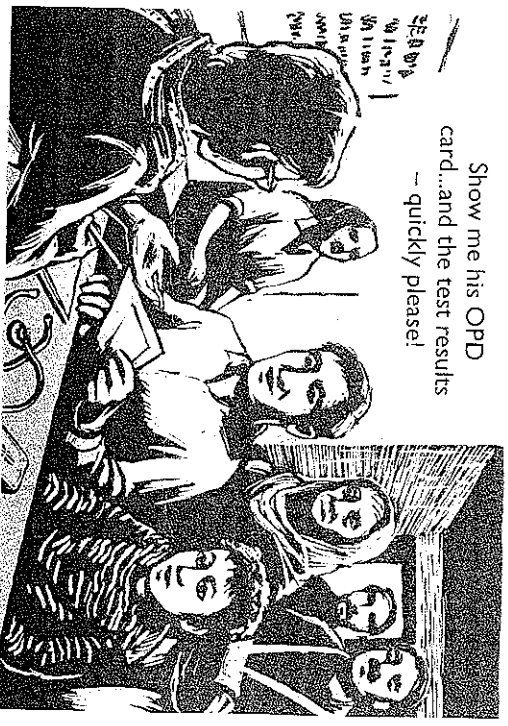
...and it really did! We went to a big Government Hospital! We had to wait in a long queue at the OPD counter. I was feeling so sick that I had to lean on Abba all the time!



When our turn came, the doctor examined me, and asked for a blood test. Then we had to go and stand in another long queue! People were crowding around in the testing room too.



We got the test results after three days...and went back to the hospital. There was a different doctor that day.

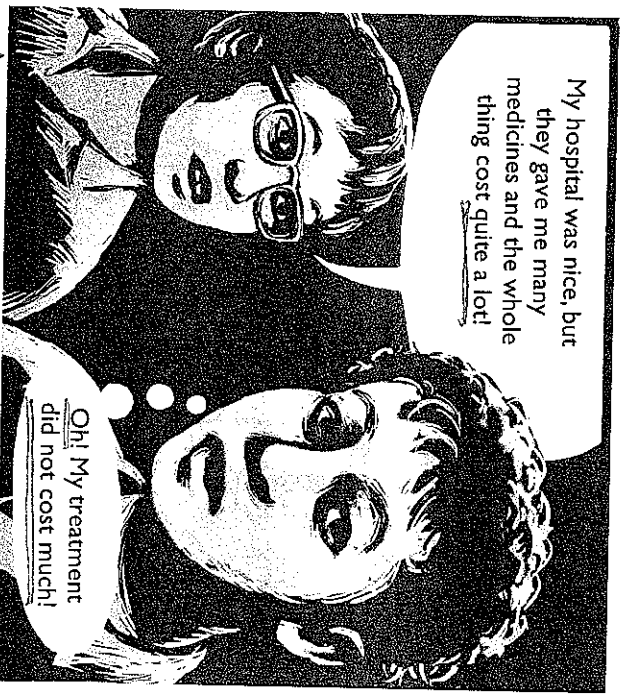


Show me his OPD card...and the test results -- quickly please!

He seems to be suffering from a bout of viral fever -- nothing to worry about. All he needs is this one fever-reducing medicine.



My hospital was nice, but they gave me many medicines and the whole thing cost quite a lot!



Oh! My treatment did not cost much!

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Where do you go when you are ill?
Are there any problems that you face? Write a paragraph based on your experience.

What problems did Aman face in the government hospital? How do you think the hospital can work in a better manner? Discuss.

Why did Ranjan have to spend so much money? Give reasons.

What problems do we face in private hospitals? Discuss.

Why pay taxes to the government?

Government uses tax money for providing many public services for the benefit of all citizens. Some services such as defence, police, judicial system, highways etc. benefit all citizens. Otherwise, the citizens cannot organise these services for themselves.

Taxes fund developmental programmes and services such as education, health care, employment, social welfare, vocational training etc. required for needy citizens. Tax money is utilised for relief and rehabilitation in case of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tsunami etc. Space, nuclear, and missile programmes are also funded from the revenues collected as taxes.

Government provides some services especially for the poor who cannot afford to purchase them from the market. One example is health care. Can you give other examples?

Public and private health care services

From the above story, you must have understood that we can roughly divide up various health care facilities in two categories -

- (a) Public health services and
- (b) Private health facilities.

Public health services

The public health service is a chain of health centres and hospitals run by the government. They are linked together so that they cover both rural and urban areas and can also provide treatment to all kinds of problems - from common illnesses to special services. At the village level there are health centres where there is usually a nurse and a village health worker. They are trained in dealing with common illnesses and work under the supervision of doctors at the Primary Health Centre (PHC). Such a centre covers many villages in a rural area. At the district level is the District Hospital that also supervises all the health centres. Large cities have many government hospitals such as the one where Aman was taken and also specialised government hospitals such as the ones in Hakim Selki's story.

The health service is called 'public' for many reasons. In order to fulfil its commitment of providing health care to all citizens, the government has established these hospitals and health centres. Also, the resources needed to run these services are obtained from the money that we, the public, pay to the government as taxes. Hence, such facilities are meant for everyone. One of the most important aspects of the public health system is that it is meant to provide quality health care services either free or at a low cost, so that even the poor can seek treatment. Another important function of public health is to take action to prevent the spread of diseases such as TB, malaria, jaundice, cholera,

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A post-operative room in a leading private hospital in Delhi.

Private health facilities can mean many things. Explain with the help of some examples from your area.

The Medical Council of India's Code of Medical Ethics states: "Every physician should, as far as possible, prescribe drugs with generic names and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs."

How can health care be made more affordable? Discuss.

In rural areas, a jeep is often used to serve as a mobile clinic for patients.

As the name suggests, private health facilities are not owned or controlled by the government. Unlike the public health services, in private facilities, patients have to pay a lot of money for every service that they use. Today the presence of private facilities can be seen all around. In fact now there are large companies that run hospitals and some are engaged in manufacturing and selling medicines. Medical shops are found in every corner of the country.

**Healthcare and equality:
Is adequate healthcare available to all?**

In India, we face a situation where private services are increasing but public services are not. What is then available to people are mainly private services. These are concentrated in urban areas. The cost of these services is rather high. Medicines are expensive. Many people cannot afford them or have to borrow money when there is an illness in the family.

Some private services indulge in unethical or unfair practices to earn more money. At times inexpensive alternatives, though available, may not be used. For example, some medical practitioners are found to prescribe superfluous medicines, injections or saline when simple medication may suffice.

In fact, barely 20 per cent of the population can afford all the medicines that they require during an



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.
2. What are the different ways through which the government can take steps to provide healthcare for all? Discuss.
3. What differences do you find between private and public health services in your area? Use the following table to compare and contrast these.

Facility	Affordability	Availability	Quality
Private			
Public			

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

Glossary

Public: An activity or service that is meant for all people in the country and is mainly organised by the government. This includes schools, hospitals, telephone services, etc. People can demand these services and also raise questions about their non-functioning.

Private: An activity or service that is organised by an individual or company for their own profit.

Medical tourists: This refers to foreigners who come to this country specifically for medical treatment at hospitals that offer world-class facilities at a lower cost than what they would have to pay in their own countries.

Communicable diseases: These are diseases that are spread from one person to another in many ways such as through water, food, air, etc.

OPD: This is the short form for 'Out Patient Department'. This is where people are first brought in and treated in a hospital without being admitted to any special ward.

Ethics: Moral principles that influence a person's behaviour

Generic names: These are Chemical names of the drugs. They help in identifying the ingredients. They are globally recognised. For example, acetyl salicylic acid is the generic name of Aspirin.

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- ◆ World Health Organization, *Essential medicines and health products*, <http://www.who.int/medicines/services/inn/en/>
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