

Challenge Statements – IIT Delhi

1. The urban poor do not seek treatment, despite being aware of the fact that some symptoms could be indicating serious ailments, even if they seek treatment, they also do not adhere to the medications prescribed, which results in drug resistance. In most cases, they are comfortable seeking medical advice from non-qualified local healthcare providers, and in the process incur huge costs and inordinate delay in appropriate diagnosis.
2. India is home to the largest number of persons with Tuberculosis and within urban communities, the transmission rates are very high. This is a completely curable and easily treatable disease, yet the delay in diagnosis is a huge challenge and every day that is delayed perpetuates the rapid transmission, infecting others in these vulnerable communities.
3. Nearly 50% of people with diabetes in India do not know that they have the disease, and those diagnosed with diabetes are not on regular treatment, what should be done to disrupt this grim situation?
4. Access to clean drinking water, pure air to breathe and proper toilets
5. Early detection of disease and prevention over long term.
6. Health workers and system overburdened by preventable diseases such as Dengue. Most of the cases of such diseases are not reported as they seek treatment from the private sector.
7. Costly treatment due to costly infrastructure, poor allocation of resources, large population of uneducated who fall for gimmicks.
8. Shortage of 'trained' healthcare providers
High opportunity costs of visiting public healthcare facilities for low-income urban communities
Non compliance to medication (NCDs for instance are becoming a big urban health issue)
9. Overcrowding and consequent long OPD waiting time in large public hospitals means lost income for the urban poor. Add this to unaffordable fees of qualified medical practitioners, and as a result unqualified medical practitioners are the only viable option for the urban poor - treatment from them is a cheap, quick fix and often harmful in the long run. Rampant steroid abuse being the prime example.