



Article Title

The epidemiologist and the pandemic.

Citation

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Abstract

N/A

Summary

Like Cholera outbreak of London in 1854, Spanish flu in 1920 or many other pandemic and epidemics thereafter including the current pandemic of COVID 19, it has again reminded to the world about the role of epidemiologist and epidemiological principles in controlling any such event where there is no cure available and thus saving the mankind. It points towards the urgent need of strengthening our public health infrastructure. This should be started with recruitment of competent epidemiologists on priority at district, state and country level. We should make use of full potential of members of IPHA and IAPSM mainly by providing data and help in policy making. This would help in developing capacity for timely action in best interest of our population for any threat of outbreak, epidemic or pandemic in current scenario and in future.

Planning and preparedness efforts for COVID-19 pandemic are widespread and ongoing, on a scale likely not imagined in 1918 at the time of worst pandemic of 20th century. Before vaccine against the specific emerging pandemic virus strain is available, non-pharmaceutical interventions proposed by public health professionals can offer strategies for persons and communities to help slow spread of the virus (9). Preventive strategies have seen to be effective in countries that imposed control measures at an early stage to contain the spread among communities and nations (10). Public health interventions to combat the onslaught of the spread of a Pandemic should be based on the basis of the country specific epidemiological need compatible with the health policy, health care delivery system and other governance. However, despite our efforts, gaps remain in response readiness to severe pandemic situations. Beyond this pandemic we must continue working towards sustained preparedness against future emergent infectious diseases and unforeseen pandemics. What roles are community medicine department taking? There is huge manpower and expertise in all the states of the country in form of Community Medicine experts, who can be utilized for containment plan, district and state level policies to control epidemic,

modelling and communication activities to make people, policy makers and other stake holders aware. Complete lockdown of a nation is one of the boldest step in the history of public health intervention, for preventing an emerging pandemic. It has been done in many countries to protect population from the clutches of an impending pestilence. This bold step must have been taken on the basis of a factual epidemiological data and sound tenets of public health practice provided by the National healthexperts of the country and research organization like ICMR.