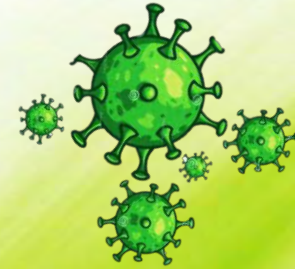


# CHAPTER 2 ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN HEALTH



A giraffe with a yellow and brown spotted pattern and a floral headband is being read to by a girl with long dark hair, wearing a red and white striped shirt and a colorful patterned dress. The giraffe is looking towards the girl.

**INTRODUCTION**

**WHAT IS HEALTH ?**

**HEALTHCARE IN INDIA**

**The story of Hakim Seikh**



**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

**PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES**

**HEALTHCARE AND EQUALITY**



**WHAT CAN BE DONE ?**

**THE KERALA EXPERIENCE**

**THE COSTA RICAN APPROACH**

## INTRODUCTION

➤ In a **DEMOCRACY** people expect the government to work for their welfare. This could be through the provision of **EDUCATION, HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS, ELECTRICITY** etc.

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सत्यमेव जयते

# EDUCATION



# EMPLOYMENT



# DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS



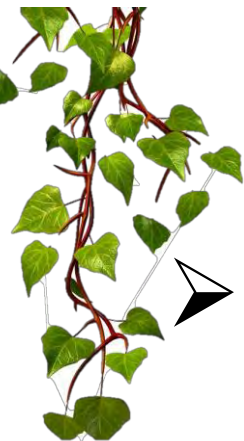


In this **CHAPTER**  
we shall  
examine the  
meanings and  
**PROBLEMS**  
**RELATED TO**  
**HEALTH.**





## WHAT IS HEALTH?



Health means our ability to remain free of **ILLNESS AND INJURIES**. Apart from disease, there are other factors that affect our health such as **DULLNESS, INACTIVENESS, ANXIETY** or being scared for long stretches of time



# DULLNESS



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# ANXIETY



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**FOR  
EXAMPLE, if  
people get  
CLEAN DRINKING  
WATER OR A  
POLLUTION FREE  
environment,  
they are likely  
to be healthy.**



**ALWAYS EAT HEALTHY  
WITH JUNK**



## HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

- To prevent and treat illnesses, we need appropriate **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES.**



# HOSPITALS



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# LABORATORY





# EMERGENCY SERVICES

# BLOOD BANKS





These facilities can provide the care and services that a patient needs. To run such facilities we need **HEALTH WORKERS, NURSES, QUALIFIED DOCTORS** and other health professionals who can advise, diagnose and treat illnesses.



- We also need **MEDICINES AND EQUIPMENT** that are necessary for treating patients.
- India has a large number of **DOCTORS, CLINICS AND HOSPITALS**

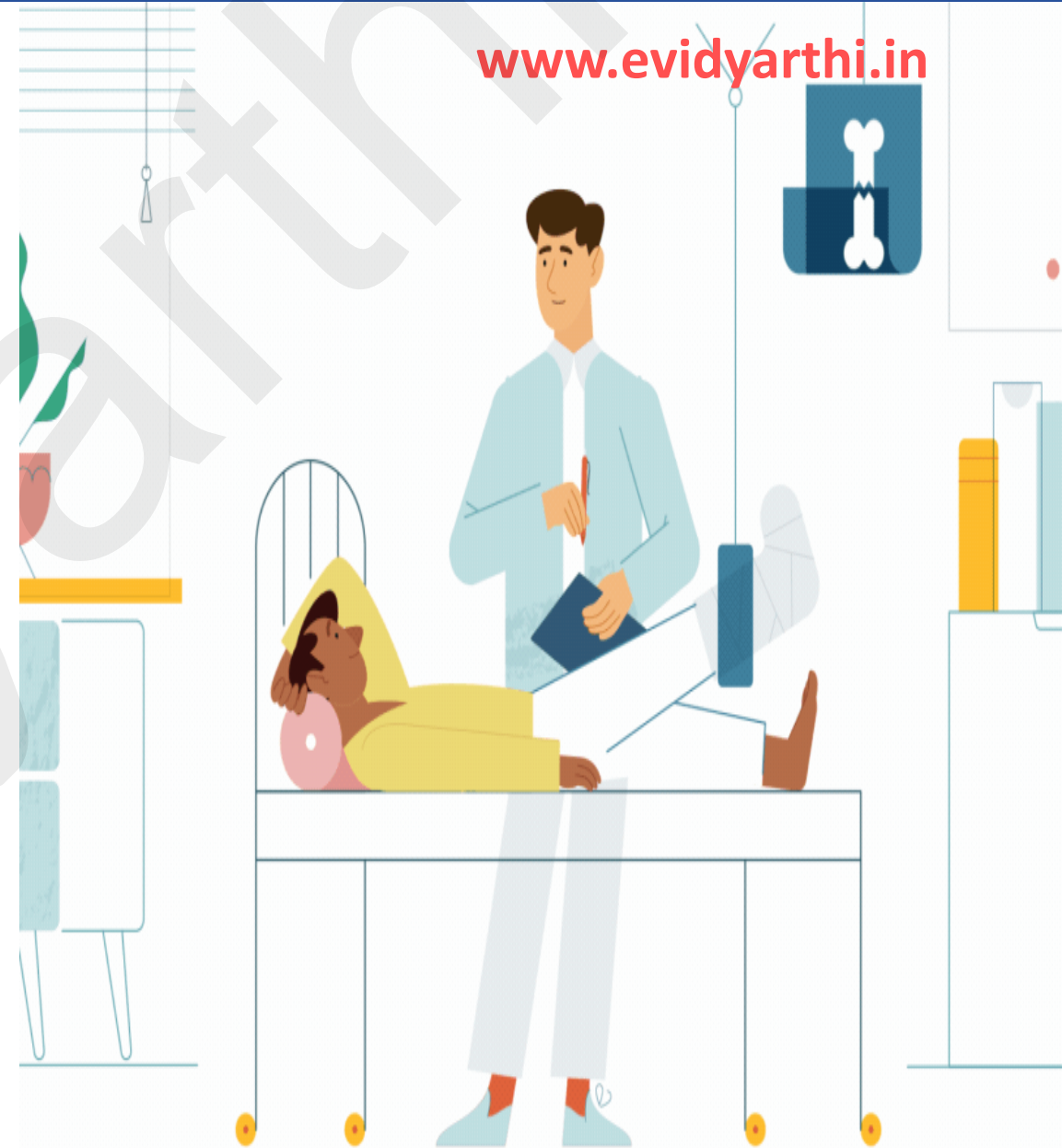



# EQUIPMENT





➤ **PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM** is a system of hospitals and health centers run by the **GOVERNMENT**. It has the ability to look after the health of a large section of its population scattered over **HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VILLAGES**.



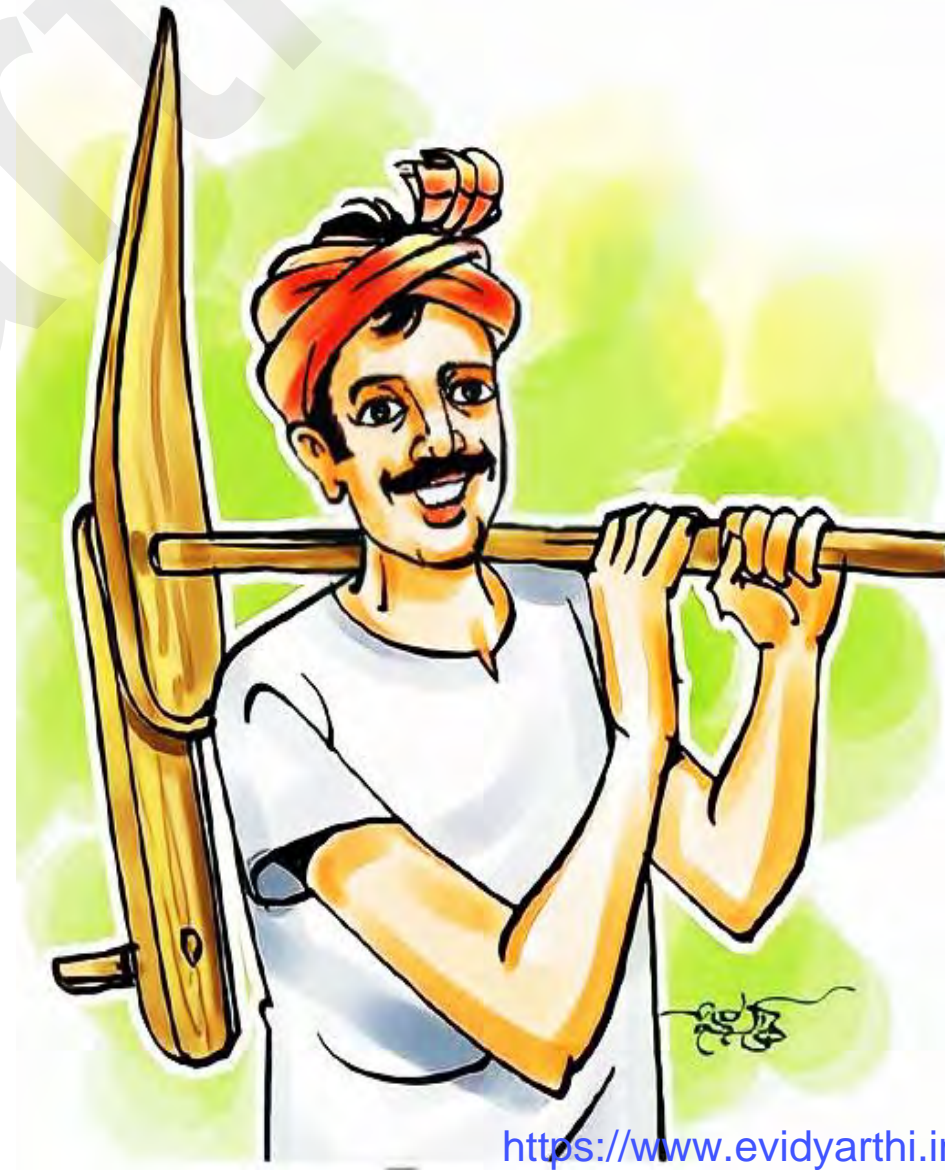
- 
- Even after having public healthcare systems the government is not able to provide proper **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES** to people.
  - Let us understand this situation properly through the help of some examples.







## THE STORY OF HAKIM SEIKH

➤ **HAKIM SEIKH** was a member of the **PASCHIM BANGA KHET MAZDOOR SAMITY (PBKMS)**, an organisation of agricultural labourers in West Bengal.



➤ One evening in **1992**, he accidentally fell off a running **TRAIN** and suffered head injuries. He was in a very serious condition and needed **IMMEDIATE TREATMENT**.



- 
- 
- He was taken to a government hospital in **KOLKATA** but they refused to admit him because they did not have a spare bed.
  - Another hospital did not have the facility or the specialised **DOCTORS NECESSARY FOR HIS TREATMENT.**



➤ In this way he spent **14 HOURS** in a critical state and was taken to **EIGHT DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS**, but none of them admitted him.



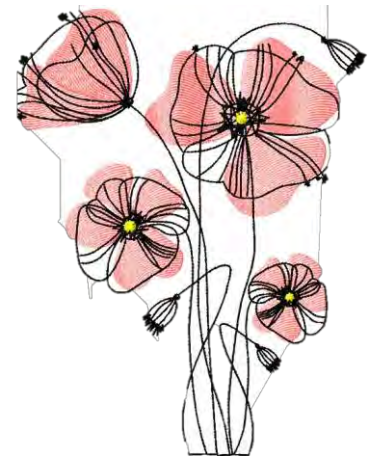


➤ Finally, he was admitted in a **PRIVATE HOSPITAL**, where he received treatment. He spent a lot of **MONEY** on his treatment.





Angry and upset over the indifferent attitude of all the hospitals that refused to admit him, **HAKIM SEIKH AND PBKMS** filed a case in the court.



## 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...



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

Oh! Me, too! I just got back to school on Monday. My Daddy took me to see the doctor at the new hospital in Kingsway. It was very exciting!

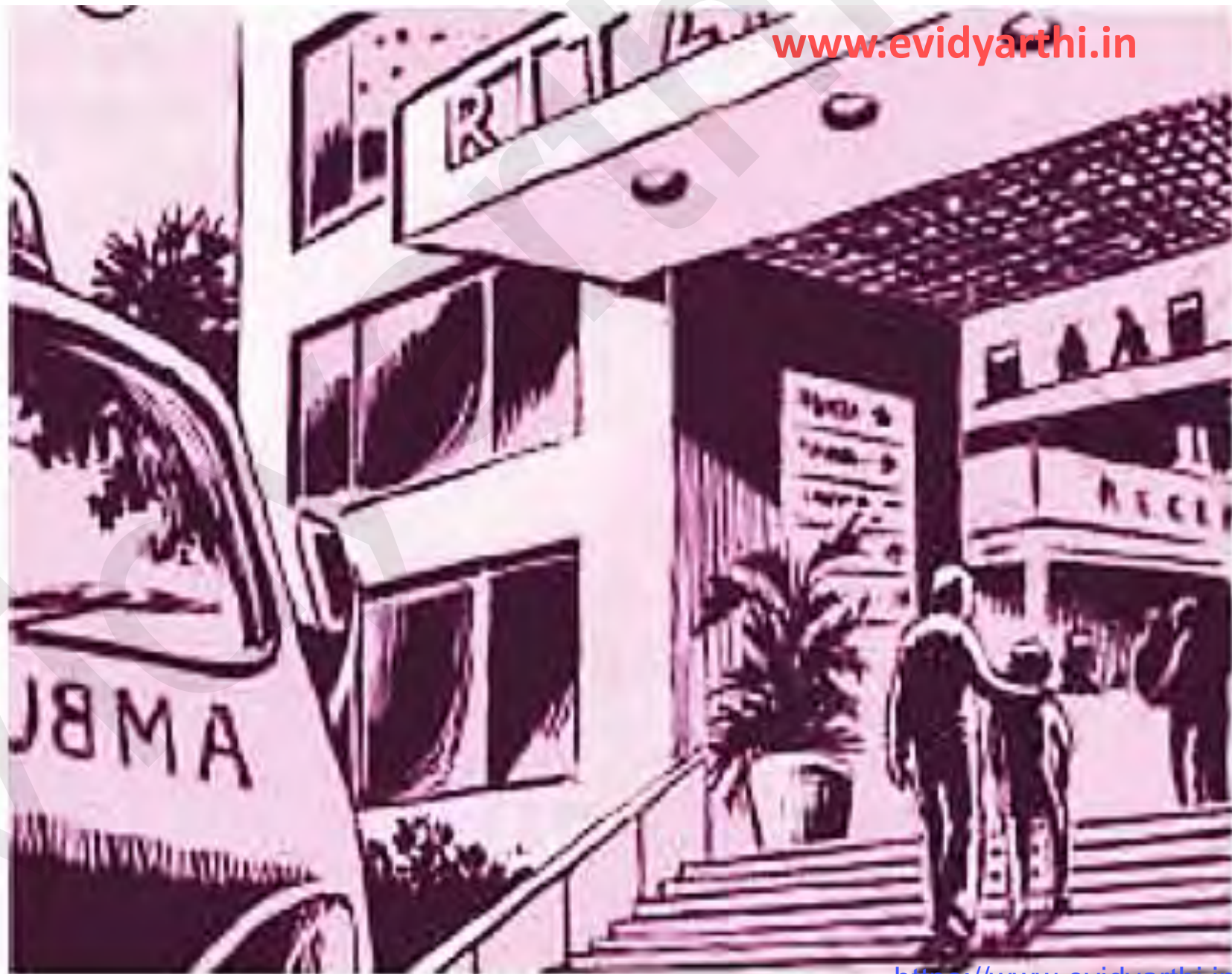


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**RANJAN SAID**

**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!**



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...and have you heard the one about Batman on Reality TV?

**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.**



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**AMAN SAID**

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## AMAN SAID

...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!



**AMAN SAID**  
**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.**



**AMAN SAID**  
**WE GOT THE TEST**  
**RESULTS AFTER**  
**THREE DAYS...AND**  
**WENT BACK TO THE**  
**HOSPITAL.THERE**  
**WAS A DIFFERENT**  
**DOCTOR THAT DAY.**



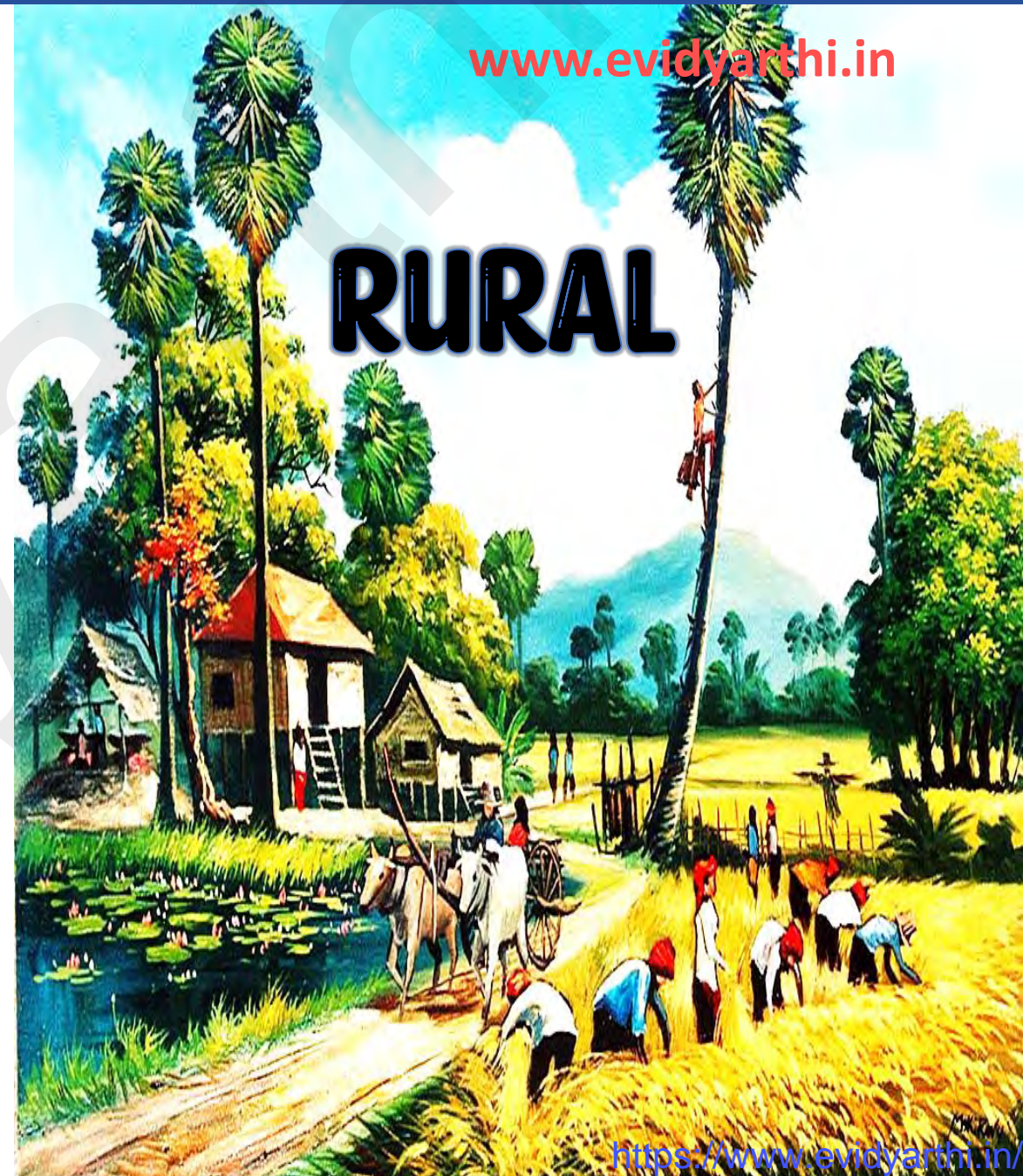


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## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

➤ 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.**



URBAN



At the village level, there are health centres where there is 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.



# PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE

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- At the district level, there is a **DISTRICT HOSPITAL** that supervises all the health centres.
- Large cities have many **GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS** and also specialized government hospitals.



# DISTRICT HOSPITAL







- The health service is called **'PUBLIC'** for many reasons as mentioned below:
- The government has established hospitals and health centres for everyone.
- The medical facilities are provided at a **LOW COST** so that the poor can also seek treatment.



# PUBLIC FACILITIES USED BY PUBLIC



**Bank**



**Church**



**Swimming-pool**



**Train station**

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Post office



Phone Box



Park



Hospital

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Museum



Police station



Clothes shop



Bus stop

➤ **The function of Public health service is to take action to prevent the spread of diseases such as TB, MALARIA, JAUNDICE, CHOLERA, DIARRHEA, CHIKUNGUNYA, ETC.**





➤ The government must safeguard the **RIGHT TO LIFE** of every person. According to our Constitution, it is the primary duty of the government to ensure the welfare of the people and provide **HEALTH CARE FACILITIES** to all.



## PRIVATE HEALTH SERVICE

- There is a wide range of private health facilities that exist in our country.
- A large number of doctors run their own **PRIVATE CLINICS**. In the rural areas, one finds **REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (RMPS)**.



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- There are hospitals and nursing homes that are privately owned.

**PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES** are not owned or controlled by the government. 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. large companies that run hospitals, some are engaged in manufacturing and selling medicines. **MEDICAL SHOPS** are found in every corner of the country



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## HEALTHCARE AND EQUALITY:

**IS ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE TO ALL?**

- In India, private health services are increasing but public health services are not. As the cost of these **PRIVATE SERVICES IS HIGH**, many people cannot afford them.






➤ Some **PRIVATE SERVICES** encourage incorrect practices to earn more. some medical practitioners are found to prescribe **SUPERFLUOUS MEDICINES**, injections or saline when simple medication may suffice.




➤ Barely **20% OF THE INDIAN POPULATION** can afford medicines that they require during an illness.





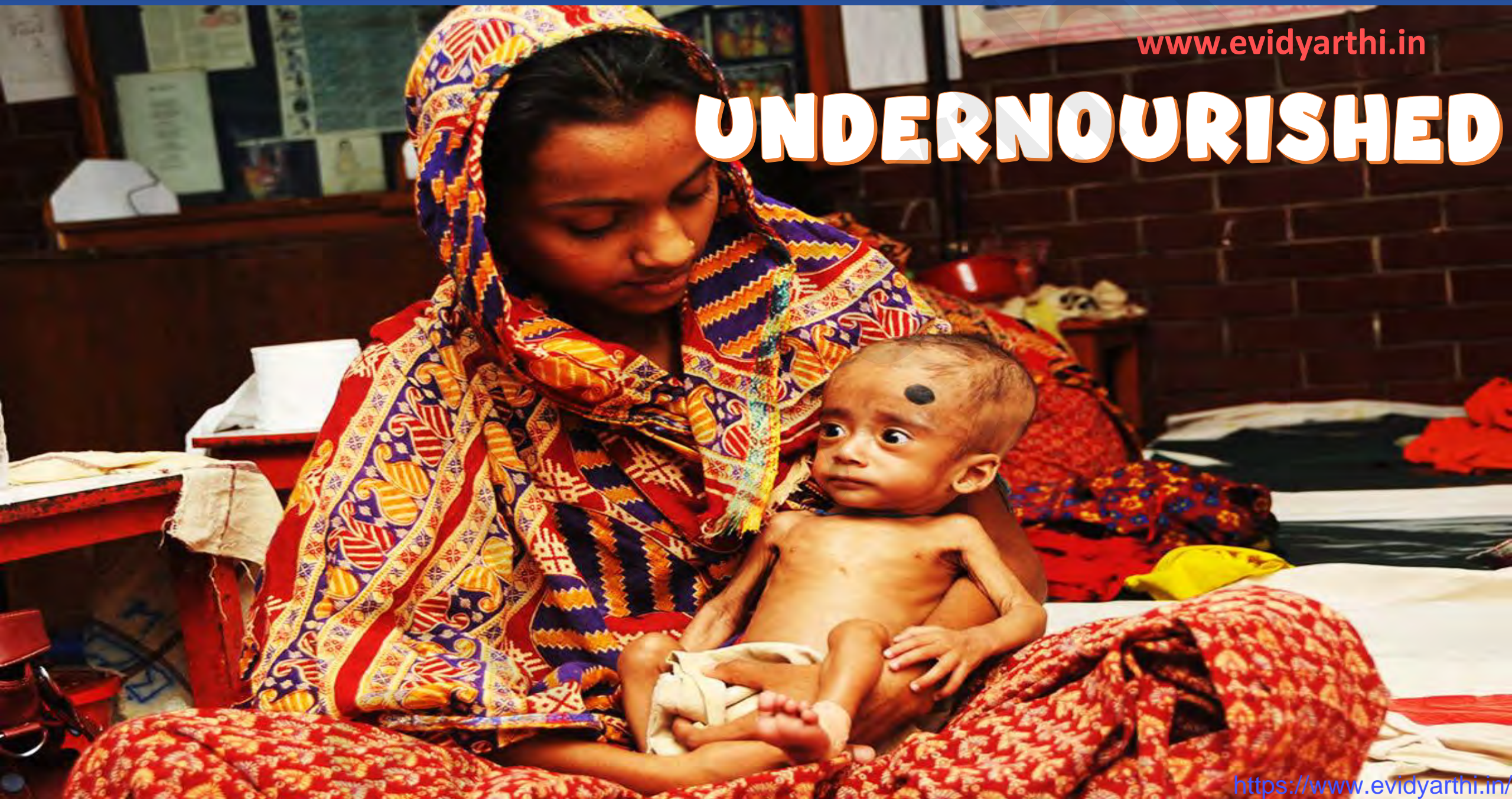
➤ 40 per cent of people who are admitted to a hospital for some **ILLNESS OR INJURY** have to borrow money or sell some of their possessions to pay for the expenses.



➤ Those who are poor are in the first place **UNDERNOURISHED**. These families are not eating as much as they should.



# UNDERNOURISHED





They are not provided basic necessities like **DRINKING WATER, ADEQUATE HOUSING, CLEAN SURROUNDINGS,** etc., and therefore, are more likely to **FALL ILL.**



➤ **WOMEN'S HEALTH** concerns are considered to be less important than the health of men in the family. Many tribal areas have few health centres and they do not run properly.





# CLEAN SURROUNDINGS



## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

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- It is the responsibility of the government to provide quality healthcare services to all its **CITIZENS**, especially the poor and the disadvantaged.
- Health is as much dependent on **BASIC AMENITIES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS** of the people, as it is on **HEALTHCARE SERVICES.**

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**EDUCATION**

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# NUTRITION

# HOUSING



# SAFE DRINKING WATER

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- **it is important to work on both in order to IMPROVE THE HEALTH situation of our people.**
- **WE CAN UNDERSTAND THIS WITH THE HELP OF SOME EXAMPLES IN THE NEXT VIDEO**



## THE KERALA EXPERIENCE

- Kerala government made some major changes in the state. 40% of the entire state budget was given to **PANCHAYATS**.
- This made it possible for a village to make sure that proper planning was done for **WATER, FOOD, WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**.



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# EDUCATION







➤ This meant that water supply schemes were checked, working of schools and **ANGANWADIS** was ensured and specific problems of the village were taken up.



# ANGANWADIS



సమగ్ర సేవ అభివృద్ధి సేవపథకము  
అంగన్ వాడి కేంద్రము  
వ.సి.డి.ఎస్. క్రా. ఫలిగపూరి తండ్రెండ్ల II. మహబూబాబాద్.

అంగన్ వాడి కేంద్రం  
తెలంగాణ ప్రభుత్వం

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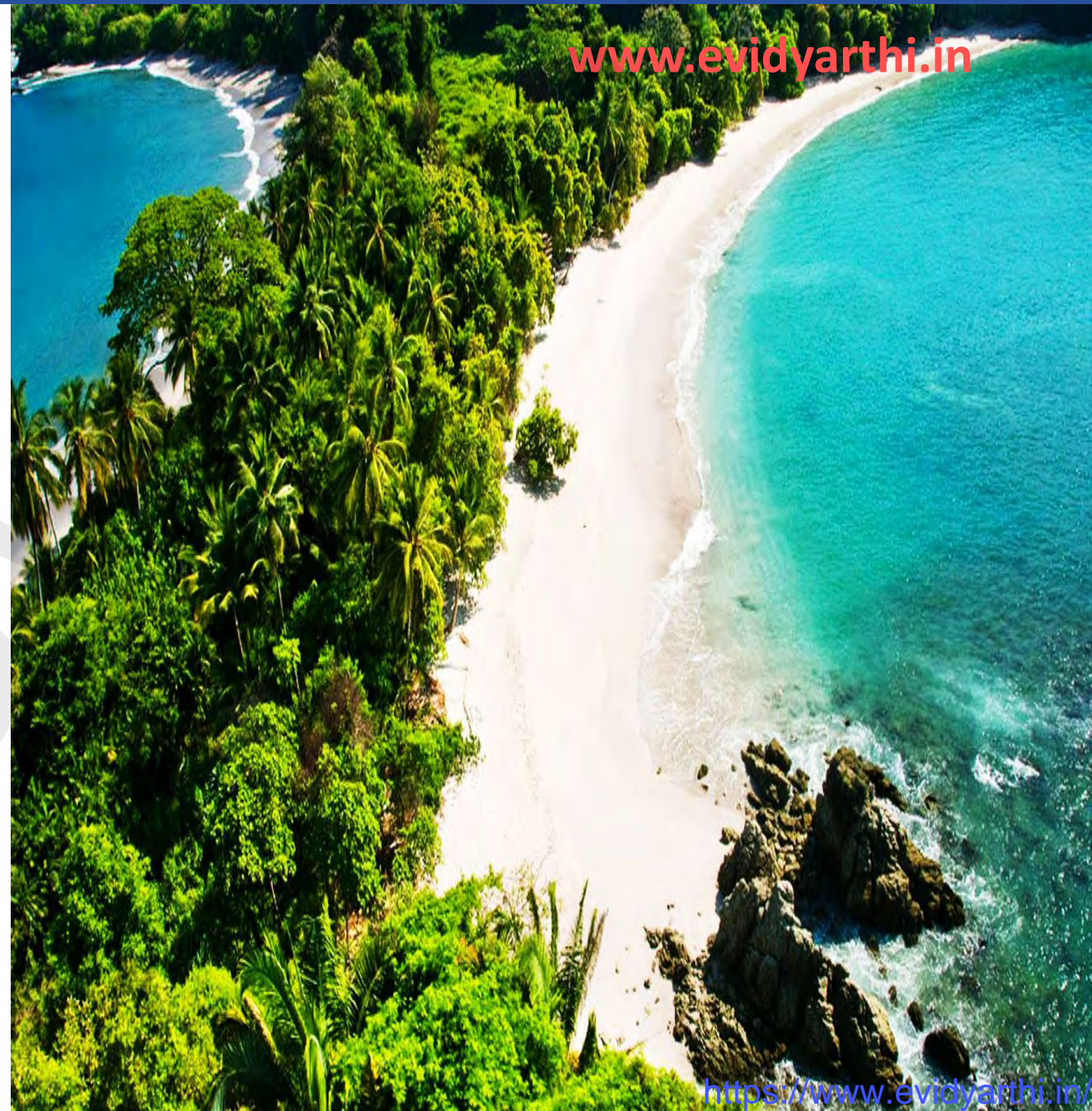
- **SOME PROBLEMS** – such as shortage of medicines, insufficient hospital beds, not enough doctors – remained, and these needed to be addressed
- **LET US LOOK AT AN EXAMPLE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AND ITS APPROACH TO ISSUES OF HEALTH.**

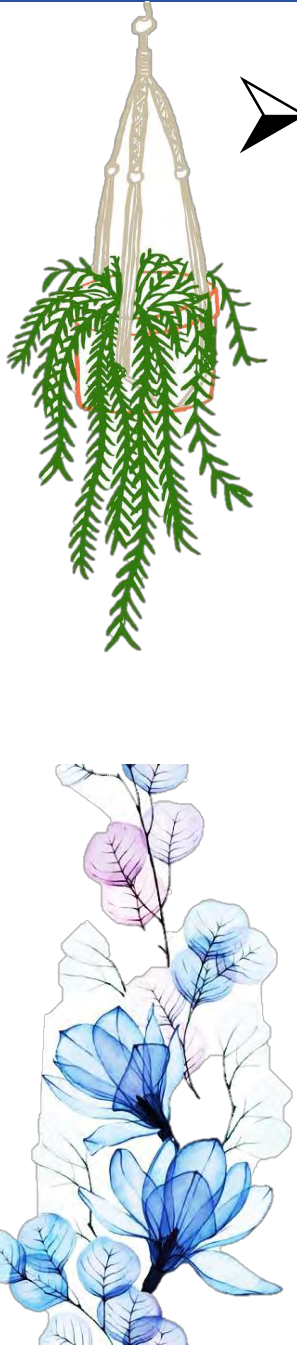




## THE COSTA RICAN APPROACH

- Costa Rica is considered to be one of the healthiest countries in **CENTRAL AMERICA**.
- Costa Rica took a very important decision and decided not to have an **ARMY**.





- This helped the **COSTA RICAN** government to spend the money that the army would have used, on health, education and other basic needs of the people.



- it provides safe **DRINKING WATER, SANITATION, NUTRITION AND HOUSING.**
- Health, education is also considered very important and knowledge about **HEALTH** is an essential part of education at all levels.

