

Planetary Health as a Tool for Transformation

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The United Nations Development Programme has made a lot of progress in terms of improving the lives of millions of people across the globe. Significant improvements can be observed with respect to various health indicators such as life expectancy, maternal and child health, and a wide range of persistent health issues [1].

Covid-19 crisis has shown that the world is in dire need of investment in critical public services to deal with health emergencies and uncertainties. The covid-19 pandemic has exhibited the interconnectedness of the risks prevalent in the world related to development. It has highlighted social, economic, and environmental problems. Planetary health gives the understanding of the dynamic and systemic relationships between global environmental changes and their effects on natural systems and how changes to natural systems affect human health and wellbeing at global, regional and local levels [2].

The Rockefeller Foundation-*Lancet* [3] Commission on Planetary Health, we define it this way: “the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, wellbeing and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems-political, economic and social-that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish [4].

Planetary health gives an alternate solution by examining political, social and economic systems for a more resilient future. According to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Planetary health is a new field to guide and give solutions to protect our own health [5]. The Paris Climate Change Agreement explicitly links climate action with a healthier environment, cleaner air and reduced risks of extreme heat waves in order to check the spread of diseases. United nations have introduced UN Global Climate Action Awards for Planetary Health which shows how communities are creating new ways to use the planet’s resources wisely to protect their health and that can serve as a model for others.

According to a study [6], the public health community will need to act on these fronts for successful implementation. Firstly, the community should sponsor an ongoing program to inform policymakers and the public about climate change-related health threats, the critical importance of population health-oriented adaptation strategies and the resources needed to support those strategies.

Secondly, close and sustained coordination with other sectors which are consistent with the health in all policies approach and the right to health principle and US agencies that serve non-health sectors and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to implement the Paris Agreement and also should consider population health impacts into their climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Thirdly, it is essential that the public health community and the population should be part of the government institutions which lead health adaptation strategies in the United States and are related to the Paris Agreement and others as well.

Pongsiri M J, *et al.* [2] suggests that Planetary health can be operationalized by the explicit identification of multiple benefits and trade-offs for human health and natural systems of decisions affecting environmental change which are consistent with the sustainable development goals.

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