Country: India

Committee: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Agenda item: Infant and Child Mortality

It is an important global situation: nearly 5 million children who are under five years old die every year. India is among the countries with the highest mortality rates among children under five, the government understands that this has to change. We have done some programs and policies which we are able to progress, after which we are ready to contribute towards the global effort.

India has initiated a number of programmes to reduce child deaths. The National Health Mission focuses on improving health for mothers and children in rural areas. Programs such as Janani Suraksha Yojana encourage skilled medical guidance. Mission Indradhanush launched vaccination to protect millions of children against preventable diseases. The role of community health workers, known as ASHAs, is providing the most basic healthcare services in rural areas. Yet, malnutrition, lack of education, and poor sanitation remain the key challenges that have been felt most in rural and low-income areas.India realizes that the answer to child mortality is in global partnerships. We work with organizations like the WHO, UNICEF, and GAVI for better vaccine distribution, health infrastructure, and technical support. We also support knowledge sharing and cooperation between developing nations to replicate successful programs.

India now proposes the following to solve this challenge: improving the healthcare systems by increasing the number of health workers and establishing mobile clinics, especially in underdeveloped areas; education on maternal health, family planning, and proper nutrition; vaccinations should be made available to all, subsidized or through partnerships. It is also important to address malnutrition through community-based nutrition programs for children and pregnant women. Lastly, global collaboration in funding healthcare initiatives and sharing innovative ideas is needed. We need a collective action in this respect by all countries of the world. Let us join forces towards ensuring that any child born on Earth must be provided a chance to survive, grow, and reach their potential.

REFERENCES

* <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/india>
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