POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

SELECTION EXAMINATION FOR MD (COMMUNITY MEDICINE/COMMUNITY DENTISTRY) – AUGUST 2020

Date: - 31ˢᵗ August 2020   **Time:** - 11.00 a.m – 12.00 noon

Answer **all** questions.
Answer each question in a separate book.

1. Read the abstract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Abstract

Background

Making progress towards **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** is a policy priority for both countries and global institutions, as highlighted by the agenda of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13).

Methods

Based on the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2019, we assessed UHC effective coverage for 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2019. **Effective coverage indicators were based on intervention coverage** or outcome-based measures such as **mortality-to-incidence ratios** to approximate access to quality care. For three tests of **validity (content, known-groups, and convergent)**, UHC effective coverage index performance was generally better than that of other UHC service coverage indices from WHO (ie, the current metric for SDG indicator 3.8.1 on UHC service coverage), the World Bank, and GBD 2017.

Findings

Globally, **performance on the UHC effective coverage index improved from 45·8 (95% confidence interval 44·2–47·5) in 1990 to 60·3 (58·7–61·9) in 2019.** Many countries showed lagging performance on effective coverage indicators for non-communicable diseases relative to those for

communicable diseases and maternal and child health, despite non-communicable diseases accounting for a greater proportion of potential health gains in 2019, suggesting that many health systems are not keeping pace with the rising non-communicable disease burden and associated population health needs. In 2019, the UHC effective coverage index was associated with pooled health spending per capita **(r=0·79)**, although countries across the development spectrum had much lower UHC effective coverage than is potentially achievable relative to their health spending.

Interpretation

The present study demonstrates the utility of measuring effective coverage and its role in supporting improved health outcomes for all people.

Adapted from: Lancet, August 27, 2020

1.1   Explain the term Universal Health Coverage.   (20 marks)

1.2   Explain the term "intervention coverage indicator" giving an example of one that can be used in the control of non-communicable diseases in Sri Lanka.   (20 marks)

1.3   Explain the term "mortality-to-incidence ratio"?   (10 marks)

1.4   Explain the term content validity?   (10 marks)

1.5   Interpret r=0.79.   (20 marks)

1.6   Interpret the statement **"Globally, performance on the UHC effective coverage index improved from 45.8 (95% confidence interval 44.2–47.5) in 1990 to 60.3 (58.7–61.9) in 2019".**

          (20 marks)

2. The "New Normal" to prevent any community transmission of COVID-19 requires that there is a satisfactory level of awareness and constant public practice of the prescribed precautions put out by the Ministry of Health in the form of guidelines for resumption of public activities.

A district has been selected for a rapid assessment of the knowledge of people on COVID-19 precautions. The district has a mixed population comprising the following

    a. urban areas,

    b. rural areas, and

    c. estate areas.

2.1   Describe a suitable sampling method that can be used for rapid assessment of knowledge on COVID-19 precautions in this district.   (50 marks)

A social marketing campaign is planned to improve awareness and practices on the "New Normal" for purpose of behaviour change on COVID-19 precautions.

2.2   Design a study to assess the effectiveness of the social marketing campaign.   (50 marks)