



37th Annual MVHSMUN Conference

“Opus Justitiae Pax”

The Work of Justice Shall be Peace

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Hello Delegates! My name is Rouja Rezapour and I will be your head chair for this year's World Health Organization committee at Mission Viejo High School. I am currently a junior at El Toro High School and I will be a guest chair at Mission Viejo High School. At El Toro I have been part of the board and in the MUN program for the past three years and my current position is USG of Documents (OPI). In my school I am also part of many clubs including CSF and Operation Smile. I look forward to seeing you all in committee!

Hey delegates! I'm Sheri Fashami and I will be your Vice Chair for the 2020 MVHSMUN Conference! I'm currently a sophomore as well as ASB Sophomore Class President. Not only this but, I am enrolled in the theater program and play on our school's lacrosse team. Out of school, I go to concerts all the time, my favorite venues are located in Los Angeles. My most favorite performer and artist is Khalid, which I have seen in concert three times. Anyway, I love going to Disneyland whenever I can and being with my friends every weekend. I am beyond excited to meet everyone and have a fun time during this conference! Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions whatsoever at sherifashami12@gmail.com.

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

Background

Vaccine hesitancy is the refusal to have an individual's child vaccinated. Viewed as one of the top ten global health threats of 2019, the argument continues to rise as many debates spark regarding medical, legal, as well as ethical problems that can be associated with vaccines. Not only is there lack of trust regarding the vaccine, but a lack of convenience for those in need of supply. Over the past few years, anti-vaccination advocates arose. However, the message of these advocates ultimately resulted in outbreaks of diseases that easily could have been prevented from the designated vaccine. With more and more individuals lacking the coverage that is necessary for a child's well-being, there is a large risk to large quantities of populations spreading diseases. UN Involvement is a necessity as 1.5 million children are dying each year from a problem that is preventable. As to why there is a sudden rise in anti-vaccinations, the UN



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Health Agency views this as a growing problem, examining the number of ways to address the global issue.

UN Involvement

With continuous problems, UNICEF as well as the Permanent Mission of Japan hosted a high-level United Nation event in New York in hopes of bringing a variety of policy makers, governments, and technical experts to educate and tackle the misinformation that has been spread regarding vaccines. After years of anti-vaccination arguments taking place, this was the first event of this sort to be taking place, which overall has the main focus of creating and building upon the trust of vaccines. Experts and educators have been going through the process of improving a child’s right to immunization. Not only this but in 2015, leaders around the globe agreed upon a set of Sustainable Developments Goals, specifically expanding the access that is involved in receiving immunization. The “Decade of Vaccines” ultimately was an effort that began the World Economic Forum in 2010, which was supported by stakeholders to expand immunization benefits. All governments welcomed this initiative with 194 member states finally endorsing the GVAP, Global Vaccine Action Plan that took place at the 65th World Health Assembly. Since these efforts to halt diseases, illnesses, and deaths of anti-vaccines, annual progress reports have been presented in order to analyze the progress being made around the globe.

Possible Solutions

With this issue being ongoing, it may seem impossible to tackle and combat the overall lack of immunization. However, education is the primary factor in the result of anti-vaccination advocates. From friend to friend, word spreads from one to another as a parent could not



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understand the true benefits of immunization, only believing what they hear. Education from possible free lessons provided by the state, or media coverage through social platforms could be enough to save the lives of millions. Any form of information to be spread that includes the positives and the necessity for vaccines should be sparking the change we need in order to combat the issue.

Guiding Questions

1. How does your country respond to anti-vaccination advocates?
2. Where does your country stand on the issue?
3. Is anti-immunization common within your region or not as apparent as other issues?
4. How many individuals does the issue affect?

VI. Works Cited

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Universal Healthcare

I. Background

The United Nations World Health organization defines universal healthcare coverage as, “all people having access to the health care they need, when and where they need it, without facing financial hardship.” This would mean that governments would provide healthcare to everyone even if they have the ability to pay for it. It has been a topic that has been continuously discussed within the UN discussions since 1948 which was the year the World Health Organization declared healthcare a basic human right. Since governments would be the ones controlling the pricing of medications and medical services through negotiation and regulation that would lead to healthcare costs decreasing overall within their economy. The cost is also lower because private companies would no longer exist in a country that provides healthcare for everyone and therefore provide the same standard care all for the same price. Having healthcare available to everyone also prevents future problems and worsening of health problems in the future for children which prevents future social costs. Although there are many advantages to universal health care, there are also some disadvantages, such as people having to pay for others medical care and long wait times for elective procedures. Among the thirty-three developed nations thirtytwo of them provide universal healthcare and the types of universal healthcare can be divided into three types. The first is the single payer-system in which the government is the “single payer” and does so through collecting taxes from its people. This system can be found in countries such as the United Kingdom and Canada. Other countries such as Germany have a system that requires insurance for everyone either purchased from private companies or the government known as mandate insurance. Finally in the two-tier approach the government provides basic services paid by taxes and other options can be purchased through private companies best found in France. The United States combines private companies as well as government-run insurance. When considering Universal healthcare there are



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dimensions to its availability including physical accessibility, financial affordability, and acceptability. This includes how close medical treatment is to people, the organization of the system and how hard it is to navigate as well as the delivery to people who need it. The affect healthcare has financially on a household and the indirect costs also must be taken into account. The acceptability is how socially or culturally welcoming methods of treatment are and how the treatment they receive is perceived.

II. UN/NGOs

Achieving universal health care has been a goal of the World Health Organization for almost 70 years, therefore the United Nations is very involved in this issue. Their most current actions have been the high-level meeting held on September 23rd of 2019 at the United Nations General Assembly. The theme was “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World” and it focused on achieving Universal Health Coverage including financial support, easy and safe accessibility to affordable, effective and quality medicine for all. The two panels held in this meeting were Universal Health Coverage as a driver of equity, inclusive development and prosperity for all and Accelerating Multi-sectoral and Multi-Stakeholder Action and Investments for achieving Universal Health Coverage. Primary health care (PHC) is the base of Universal Health Coverage and by focusing on prevention and promotion it is both effective and efficient. The goal of this meeting was progressing towards successfully providing universal health coverage by 2030. In the past there have also been other efforts to achieve and work towards universal health coverage including resolutions from 2012, 2015, and 2017. In resolution 67/81 the General Assembly focused on achieving their goal of UHC specifically for the poorest populations through primary health-care and social protection mechanisms. According to the UHC2030 website, “On 12 December 2017, the UN passed a third resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society, which called on Member States to promote and strengthen their dialogue with other stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in order to maximize their engagement in and contribution to the implementation of health goals and targets



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through an intersectoral and multi stakeholder approach.” The UH2030 was also developed during this submit in order to support Member States in creating and strengthening a sustainable universal health coverage system. That same year December 12 was proclaimed by the UN as International Universal Health Coverage Day to raise awareness about the issue.

III. Case Study

One specific example of the efforts of achieving universal Health coverage is the United States’ Affordable Care Act (ACA). This comprehensive health care reform law was signed by President Obama in March 2010 and is also known as Obamacare. The main objective of the act was to make affordable health insurance available to more people. The law lowers costs for household with incomes between 100% to 400% of the federal poverty level and is meant to expand the Medicaid program to cover all adults with income below 138% of the federal poverty level. Another goal of Obamacare is to support innovative medical care delivery methods designed to lower the costs of health care generally. This was achievable through increasing taxes of Americans as well as insurance premiums. Although this isn’t an example of universal healthcare coverage it is taking a step towards that goal by providing medical care for the poorest population. With this program the United States is a combination of private insurance companies as well as the government paying most of the costs. Before 2019 if a person within the United States did not qualify for Obamacare and chooses to not buy insurance from a private company and have insurance nine months out of the year there was a fine which has recently been removed. By providing preventive care hospital visits were lowered which lead to the slowing of the rising healthcare costs the nation had to combat. Because of Obamacare sixteen million Americans were able to obtain insurance many of which were young adults. The Affordable Care Act also made it possible to get insurance with pre existing health conditions and insurance companies can no longer set a limit on how much is spent on a patient within a given amount of time. According to James Roland article on Healthline explaining the pros and cons of Obamacare on benefit is that, “Insurance companies must now spend at least 80 percent of insurance premiums on medical care and improvements. The ACA also aims to



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prevent insurers from making unreasonable rate increases.” Thus, although Obamacare has its limitations it also has been a start for establishing universal health insurance.

IV. Questions to Consider

1. Does your country’s solution also help solve indirect issues such as the physical accessibility and acceptability to insurance along with addressing the financial part of the problem?
2. What is your country’s current system for insurance and what are some disadvantages of it that can be addressed in your solution?
3. What combinations of the three types of insurances provide the most beneficial plan for your country while supporting your country policy?
4. How could you combat the limitations of a single payer type of plan such as long wait times for procedures and the possibility of medical providers opting for private-pay only unless legally mandated otherwise?
5. How does your country plan on working and helping other countries in order to come closer to achieving universal health care?

V. Recommended Reading

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