



## Review Article

# Allied Health Professionals Opportunities and Challenges

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## Abstract

Government of India with the implementation of new education policy in 2020, aims to upgrade education system including higher education along with medical and allied health care sectors across the country. The aim is to reduce the gap between doctor centric nature of health care system through the development of quality and better skilled professionals. By doing this we can improve overall patient care. Standardized curriculum has been designed for each health an allied health care profession. Thousands of students who wish to become and willing to choose healthcare and skilled allied health professionals in future. Allied Health Professionals assist, in diagnosis using different automated and sophisticated machinery. They are integral part of health care system because early and proper diagnosis is must for proper treatment of a disease.

**Keywords:** Allied Health Professionals, healthcare services, Opportunities, New Education Policy.

## 1. Introduction

Allied Health Professionals having knowledge about advanced and automated instrument are now a days in high demand as evident by recent COVID-19 pandemic. For the management of chronic disease, interprofessional collaboration and use of available resources is considered essential [1-3]. Prevalence of chronic disease that is increasing day by day resulting in extra burden for health care systems along with patients and families [4]. Primary health care plays a key role since the beginning from the first point of contact for prevention, delaying and reducing the spread of diseases [5-6]. Different professional backgrounds typically delivering multiple primary health care is needed for the management of people with chronic conditions at different levels of health care [7].

The experience of health care practitioners from each profession along with knowledge, skills are brought together to give best outcome for individuals having chronic disease [8-9].

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare developed national guidelines for the improvement of skill based allied health professionals to improve the quality of overall patient care. Universities, colleges, healthcare throughout India are adopting this updated curriculum providers as well as educators offering allied health courses to create skilled allied health professionals of the future [10]. Allied health care professionals are working in multidisciplinary health teams in varied healthcare settings to improve overall health care [11].

## 2. Delivery of healthcare services

Healthcare services is usually dependent on the type and nature of training given to a health care worker. The patient and no of health care person ratio should be maintained for the better result in the recovery of a patient. Australia's alone is having about 90,000 well-trained, health care persons that is playing integral part of the system [12,13].

In India lack of skilled human resource should be taken in to consideration and work in this regard has been started to achieve targeted goals. The numbers of AHPs in the healthcare system to be managed in India. Indian healthcare system doctor-centric approach should understand properly.

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### 3. Allied Health Professional Opportunities

Allied Health Professional can take admission in required degree or diploma in-

- Medical Lab Technology (Degree and Diploma)
- Radiological & Imaging Technology (Degree and Diploma)
- Diploma in X-ray
- Diploma in MRI
- Diploma in CT-Scan
- Optometry (Degree and Diploma)
- Cardiology Technique
- Dialysis Technique
- Blood Transfusion Technology
- Emergency & Trauma Care Technique
- Operation Theatre Technique
- B.Sc. Nursing, ANM, GNM

### 4. Personal protection & Work Practices challenges

Allied health professionals are having very much exposure to infectious agent while testing the specimen. Care and proper attention are must to protect the environment along with self-protection. Universal precautions should be used while dealing with infectious material. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be used for personal protection while working with high-risk microorganisms including COVID-19 (Fig- 1).



**Fig- 1** Showing Allied Health Professional working in a laboratory with PPE.

#### ▪ Collection of samples

Extreme care must be taken by those involved in collecting, handling, and processing of specimens that are to be examined for the presence of microorganisms. High quality specimens are requested

to achieve accurate, clinically relevant results. The three components of specimen quality are:

- (1) Proper specimen selection (i.e., the correct type of specimen must be submitted),
- (2) Proper collection and
- (3) Proper transport of the specimen to the laboratory.

When specimens are improperly collected and handled, (1) the etiologic (causative) agent may be destroyed, (2) overgrowth by indigenous microflora may mask the pathogen, and (3) contaminations may interfere with the identification of pathogens and the diagnosis of the patient's

#### ▪ Transportation of sample

During transport of sample decontamination protocols should be followed at the starting point. The sample if collected away from the testing laboratory should be packed properly and reached as soon as possible. If there is delay in transportation proper storing should be done at required temperature in order to preserve the causative agent. Labeling should be proper on the specimen collection container.

### Conclusion

Allied health professional having medical laboratory technician degree or diploma, Radiological & Imaging Technology with Degree or Diploma, Diploma in X-ray, Diploma in MRI, Diploma in CT-Scan, Optometry with Degree or Diploma, Cardiology Technique, Dialysis Technique, Blood Transfusion Technology, Emergency & Trauma Care Technique, Operation Theatre Technique, B.Sc. Nsg, ANM, GNM etc. play important part in patient care and treatment. Patient/family-centered approach should be used for best evidence, where PGs student should offer appropriate follow-up services [14].

**Conflict of interest:** Author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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