Impact of Second Wave of Coronavirus Disease-2019 on Indian Healthcare Workers

Abilash Sasidharannair Chandrakumari, Shree Lakshmi Devi Singaravelu

ABSTRACT

India had reported the first case of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) at the beginning of 2020. India successfully battled the first COVID-19 wave, but the second one was not just a wave, it was a catastrophe, and the deadly virus had already claimed many lives counting the younger ones as well.

Among the total population, the medical personnel, nurses, and healthcare workers (HCW) are being exposed to the increased risk of contracting deadly disease from this killer virus. It is pivotal to take additional care of the medical personnel, as our country at present is facing acute shortage of HCWs. The problem encountered is not related only to their health risk but also at the cost of affecting the continuity in the healthcare delivery service by keeping them away from duty leading to shortage in the number of HCWs.

Globally, as of November 26, 2021, a total of 259 million confirmed cases and 5.183 million deaths have been reported, and India reported 34.5 million confirmed cases and 0.4 million deaths. There are no exact statistics about the number of COVID-19 deaths among healthcare professionals. According to Indian Medical Association, there were nearly 1,500 doctors, 128 nurses, and 200 HCWs lost their lives to the deadly virus in the country. The second wave of COVID-19 has given the lifetime opportunity for the policy makers and authorities to look into the healthcare system of the nation. Effective administration and intervention are vital in streamlining the control measures and curbing the COVID-19 surge.

Keywords: Coronavirus disease-2019, Healthcare workers, Health professions.

Novel coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) hit the world during late 2019, and India reported the first case of COVID-19 at the beginning of 2020. India successfully battled the first COVID-19 wave, but the second one was not just a wave, it was a catastrophe, and the deadly virus had already claimed many lives counting the younger ones as well.

Among the total population, the medical personnel, nurses, and healthcare workers (HCW) are being exposed to the increased risk of contracting deadly disease from this killer virus. It is pivotal to take additional care of the medical personnel, as our country at present is facing acute shortage of HCWs. The problem encountered is not related only to their health risk but also at the cost of affecting the continuity in the healthcare delivery service by keeping them away from duty leading to shortage in the number of HCWs.

Globally, as of November 26, 2021, a total of 259 million confirmed cases and 5.183 million deaths have been reported, and India reported 34.5 million confirmed cases and 0.4 million deaths. There are no exact statistics about the number of COVID-19 deaths among healthcare professionals. According to Indian Medical Association, there were nearly 1,500 doctors, 128 nurses, and 200 HCWs lost their lives to the deadly virus in the country. Medical personnel and HCWs across the nation are being holding their nerves for the past 22 months to deal with the ceaseless crisis and severe mental stress.

Conflict of interest: None

Source of support: Nil

How to cite this article: Chandrakumari AS, Singaravelu SLD. Impact of Second Wave of Coronavirus Disease-2019 on Indian Healthcare Workers. J Basic Clin Appl Health Sci 2021;4(4):95–96.

© The Author(s), 2021. Open Access. This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and non-commercial reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated.
In conclusion, the second wave of COVID-19 has given the lifetime opportunity for the policy makers and authorities to look into the healthcare system of the nation. The pandemic situation conveyed that there is no efficient system or policy in place to control the COVID-19 surge. It is suggested that there should be redefining and clarity in the roles and responsibilities of central, state, and local government in managing the pandemic. Effective administration and intervention are vital for the correction of present flaws in the system.

REFERENCES
1. WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard with vaccination data.