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Disaster

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Disaster refers to any unplanned event either natural or manmade disrupting the normal existing conditions resulting in immense suffering and damage. Various disasters are attributed to the health care sector impacting the well-being of the people and the patients impacting service delivery among the people or community. A disaster may be in different forms such as flooding, hunger or emergence of a pandemic such as covid 19. In the event of a disaster such as a drought and hunger majority of the health systems are overloaded with cases of malnutrition and are overwhelmed if not properly managed (Ahmad et al., 2017)

The recent occurrence of covid 19 has negatively impacted the health care system as a disaster. Following its onset with the multiple proposals of controlling the disease, various measures have been proposed, such as wearing face masks, hand washing, and maintaining a distance of one meter and vaccinations. The rapid spread of the infection has greatly affected the health system as most of the population suffering are admitted with major symptoms requiring oxygen and intensive care unit. The onset of the disease has equally led to the death of major health care frontline workers due to the virulence factor of the disease. The level of preparedness to deal with the disease was minimal as the majority of the health facilities did not understand the pathogenesis of the disease and available treatment measures to deal with the infected population (Kaye et al., 2020)

Setting quarantine areas was a feasible measure of preventing the spread of infection. It was very costly to set up working testing stations and maintain patients on treatment. A major impact was on the people suffering other health-related diseases and those children due for vaccination. The fear of spreading the disease prevented most people from seeking health or refilling their medication. The majority of the affected population presented with new infections that were more dangerous and costly to manage. The process of obtaining quality testing kits and vaccination was equally a challenge as most vaccines were not cleared for treating the disease and costly in production. The majority of the people are equally

presenting with mental health disease that affects the health sector. It is important to mention the disease's impact on health care workers as the majority were separated from their families.

The disaster with the greatest impact on health care informatics is the fires and floods that have the greatest impact on stored patient information. The data that is not automated is likely to be destroyed by fire and flood, and the system is equally destroyed that is free of backup plans. The recovery of data is dependent on establishing the external backup plans and setting up fire resistance areas for storing patient information and medical records of the chronic disease. Centers with high infectious units such as vaccine development require high security to prevent leaking of the viruses to the public or use as bioterrorism (Yap, 2011).

The financial costs involved in a disaster mitigate the risks and extend of damage done by the disaster. It is critical to note; the disaster often destroys multiple costly properties and the existing frameworks that took a lot of time to be established. The non-financial cost involved by the disaster is trauma to the medical personnel and population, fearing other emerging disasters. Many families and health workers are involved in these disasters leading to death and depression (Khorram-Manesh, Hedelin, & Örténwall, 2009).

In conclusion, disaster often occurs from time to time due to climatic change or environmental impact. The occurrence of disaster is more pronounced in countries with poor planning and disaster management strategies. It's important to note the impact of disaster economically and non-economically affecting the people and health care system.

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