

Voice of the Expert

Participation of Private Sector in COVID-19 vaccination

Almost after 100 years World is facing Pandemic. Already 117 million people infected and 2.6 million died worldwide. But this is tip of iceberg. India is vulnerable having 139 crore population, highly congested living condition, overcrowded transport, vast migrant labour and but accepted the challenge.

To rid over pandemic development of herd Immunity must. Herd immunity can develop by natural infection or by Vaccination. To wait to develop Herd Immunity by natural immunity is costly, as it will take many lives. So mass Vaccination should be the real answer.

Govt of India successfully launched vaccination programme. First the Health care workers, then Frontline workers, now people aged more than 60 years and between age 45 -59 having comorbidities. But this is a huge task.

The Government of India plans to vaccinate 300 million Indians by August 2021. This ambitious initial goal to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine comes as more than 10 million people have been exposed to COVID-19, and more than 1,55,000 people have died after contracting the virus.

Today the government sector is able to vaccinate nearly 80 lac persons in a month. At this rate it will take 10 years to vaccinate the entire 130 crore population.

Even to achieve herd immunity we need to vaccinate 70% of population which comes to 91 crore persons. Here lies the need of involvement of Private sector hand to hand with Govt sector to make it faster. In India the private health sector provides services to

nearly 70% population.

In other vaccination drives eg polio, private sector has been actively participating. Like Childhood Immunization Programme, To make COVID vaccination program effective and successful in a vast country like India involvement of private sector is essential.

Even the vaccine is developed by private sector firms can be sold privately as of now.

Serum institute has 10 crore doses lying idle with a production capacity of 10 crore per month.

In such a situation the policy of government trying to do everything and keeping all in its control is contradictory to what our Hon PM said in parliament about involving the robust private sector in all areas.

IMA has already written to PM & GOI it's willingness to help in vaccination drive.

Hence it is high time to actively engage the private health sector in vaccination drive to make mass vaccination timely and effective.



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Dr Wankhedkar, thank you for the valuable insight into Vaccine Development of COVID-19.