An integrated comprehensive global surveillance strategy to mitigate global emergence and reemergence of viral infections

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The Global emergence and reemergence of viral infections and new cycles of pandemics necessitated the global health surveillance so important and have received unprecedented recognition. This article proposes, “An Integrated Comprehensive Global Surveillance Strategy” to address the issues and challenges of Global Health by strengthening Surveillance system at multistage levels from local to Global. 1) Up gradation of International Health Regulations, WHO’s eHealth systems, smart phone technology, Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and Research are becoming essential internationally. 2) At Regional level, the neighboring countries which are organizing surveillance worldwide at their source, to control cross-border outbreaks, need to be expanded to nearby countries and linked to WHO. 3) At the national level, the critical gaps in the implementation of IDSR guidelines to be revised and reshaped for the collection, dissemination, and interventions, for epidemic response. The immunization programs, drug resistance surveillance, Research are also to be integrated with global surveillance. 4) At the State/local level, Integrating Epidemiological networks, the Private practitioners networks, Govt. surveillance Networks, cross border surveillance networks, Eco-health, Veterinary public health surveillance network and the data related to screening of travelers, mortality, climate, lab are needed for Research. 5) Capacity building in field epidemiology, assessing social determinants, host, vector, pathogen interactions and mapping of disease hot spots are required to predict, prevent and control the global level outbreaks. Diversity and complexity of global health, creating an integrated infrastructure of Surveillance and Research are biggest challenges, but WHO, developed nations, donor agencies support needed to overcome this.

Biography

G Ravivarman is presently working as Director & Professor of Community medicine, Chettinad University, India, for teaching PG and UG medical students in Public Health, Epidemiology and guiding research projects. He is Qualified MD, DPH, DPM, MBBS, under TN Medical University. He did Consultancy and Health Management services for DANIDA (RCH), WORLD BANK (ICDS III project), also worked as Addl. He is the Director of Public Health, Consultant and Technical Advisor for AIDS control programs. He published research articles in various national and International Journals. He is the Member of INCLEN and Honorable Secretary for India Clinical Epidemiological Network, Member of Indian Public Health Association.

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