

Singapore healthcare system is better than Thailand and thus, the healthcare system in Thailand needs to be refined.

By

Pimchanok Temmart

(Mui) G.1108

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Introduction

The term “Healthcare” is a vague term that many people misunderstood because it is composed of many things such as hospital systems and legal issues for the employees. Each country can inaugurate their own healthcare system and reform whenever it seems to be unsuitable with the country and its citizen’s lives. The differentiation of the healthcare system in each country arises because of the population density and the landscape of each country. The average life expectancy in Thailand is comparatively 74 years old while in Singapore it is around eight years older than in Thailand (Yong, 2015). Is the gap between these numbers because of the differences in quality of the healthcare system? It is crucial to know that the healthcare system plays an important role in the country and really affects the citizens’s lives, thus we can raise the quality of the healthcare system. The government of Thailand should be concerned and beware of the healthcare system quality so, citizens’s lives will be more standard which finally contribute to the country to step over the developing country stage. Depending on each country, they can choose their own social security system that will suit for their landscape and citizens, however, the government should also concern about the stability of the citizens in long term as well. Thereby, Singapore healthcare system is better than Thailand and thus, the healthcare system in Thailand needs to be refined.

Unsustainable of the social security system.

Singapore has a unique social security system and thus, this system provides more stability for the citizens as they getting older and older. Singapore is the only country in South East Asia that established the social security system called Central Provident Fund (CPF) with the under control of Ministry of Manpower. This system can be categorized into three accounts of money saving: Ordinary, special and Medisave account. The purpose of saving money into each account is

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Pimchanok Temmart (Mui) G.1108

differently for instance, in Medisave account, the money is predominantly for healthcare needs.

Essentially, when the citizens reach the age of 55, one more account will be added into the system which is the retirement account. All of the money in the ordinary account and special account will be transferred and deposited into this account for future use after retire. Fortunately, this CPF is mandatory to all citizens and employees (“Social Security System of Singapore,” 2016). A variety of newspapers has been published and admired the social security system in Singapore that is well-suited with the citizens’ needs. The article from Washington Post, written by Bryan R. Lawrence (2012), stated that instead of promising the citizens about the future of the retirees and decreasing the debt for the future generation, Singapore alternatively calls for every citizen to deposit 36 percent of their income into the personal retirement and healthcare needs. Resultantly, the healthcare system in Singapore delivers a preferable system than in America, costing 80 percent less according to the World Health Organization. This system dwindles the burden of the future generation as well, and the Singaporeans also have pleasant retirements. From this article, the author corroborated that the social security system in Singapore is relevant to the citizens because it can guarantee and provide the sustainability for the retirees in the future. Correspondingly, researches from many studies reveal that the pre-retirement withdrawals also affect the sustainability of the citizens and income of the employees later at the retirement. As specified by the Social Security Reform Imperatives: The Southeast Asian Case research by Mukul G. Asher (n.d.), Singapore necessitates high contribution rate because it has broad schemes of retirement, but mostly on the medical service such as health care expenses. Conversely, in Thailand, the pre-retirement withdrawals are freely authorized up until termination. In Thailand, without planning the pre-retirement withdrawals can lead to the decrease of sustainability of the citizens at the older age. According to from this research, the researcher asserted that the more pre-retirement withdrawals, the more chance to decrease the sustainability of the citizens at retirement and thus, should allow only some purposes of withdrawals in order to provide more stability. Numerous newspapers and

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Pimchanok Temmart (Mui) G.1108

researches show that the Central Provident Fund system in Singapore supply the sustainability for the retirees which is differently from Thailand and thus, Thailand healthcare system should be redesigned.

Lacking of the technology advancement and support

Singapore is almost complete the state of pushing the country forward to be the central medical hub in both South East Asia and Asia which shows the advancement of medical technology is much higher than in Thailand. Over famous 20 medical companies have been established their headquarters and manufacturing base in Singapore such as Hoya Surgical Optics. As the medical companies develop, Singapore gains many benefits such as cooperating with these companies in order to integrate the newest and most up-to-date technologies into Singapore's hospital. All of the benefits will be shared equally to every citizen and these will raise the standard of the healthcare system in Singapore. Lacking the fund will also affect the development of medical technology as well ("Medical Technology," 2017). Article from many organizations revealed that Singapore is the country that can be relied on in order to install the manufacturing base into and develop many medical technologies and innovations. The article from Singapore Economic Development Board states that many medical companies have been installed their manufacturing base, pushing Singapore to be a complete global medical technology hub. Within these companies, Singapore scientists from the research institutes can cooperate with which allowable to advance the new medical innovations that can be used and tested in Singapore. Many fields of the science will be involved such as cell biology and microelectronics thus, the scientists can use their skills and apply to develop the technologies and equipment. Furthermore, Singapore is trying to train the workforce in order to provide the companies with the appropriate skills of workers so, these can contribute to meet the healthcare needs of everyone ("Medical Technology," 2017). Accordingly, the author assured that becoming the central medical hub in South East Asia and Asia will help Singapore

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Pimchanok Temmart (Mui) G.1108

promote and thrive the technological advancement also, emerging many new innovations too. In addition, various newspapers have been reported and criticized about the inadequate funding for medical research in Thailand. The news article, written by Pratch Rujivanarom (2015), announced that Thailand is not lacking the potential medical researchers but, lacking the funding and planning from the government instead. “The biggest cause of the problem for the Thai medical researchers is that they lack proper and continuous planning from the government.” as said by Professor Dr. Pyatat Tatsanavivat, director of the Clinical Research Collaboration Network. On the contrary, Singapore government has planned and established many councils and organizations with the purpose of improving medical research and experiment. For instance, the National Medical Research Council (NMRC) was founded by Ministry of Health in Singapore with the aiming to improve the health quality in the country and conduct high-quality research in the science area (“Fundings and Medical research,” 2011). According to the news, the author confirmed that not only developing the technology will help to raised the healthcare system, but it also needs the support and planning from the government which makes technology development in Thailand is much more delay than Singapore. As can be seen, a variety of news and articles reveal that turning to be central medical hub and funding for the research also contribute to a better healthcare system like in Singapore while in Thailand is limited. Therefore, Thailand healthcare system needs to be reconsidered and improved.

Some solutions to lift up the quality of the healthcare system

The government in Thailand should refine the healthcare system by cooperating with the European country and also with the citizens in order to provide the stability for the citizens at the older age. The quality of healthcare system in Thailand is quite different from Singapore in terms of the sustainability of the citizens, the technology development and subsidy for the research. By elevating the quality of the healthcare system in Thailand, the government might need to cooperate

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Pimchanok Temmart (Mui) G.1108

with the European countries for more advances in research, technology and medicine. Moreover, the government ought to revise the social security system, so the burden for the citizens after retire will be decreased. Additionally, the government in Thailand should also give the significant on the sustainability of the citizens especially during the retirement life. Many books through the publishing by the European countries announced that by collaborating with the EU in science and technology can help the other countries develop and conduct many new technologies and innovations. The book published by The European Communities showed many past achievements that the EU cooperate with the ASEAN countries. For instance, during 2007 to 2009, the European Union has collaborated with some of the ASEAN countries, allowing to develop the vaccines against the diseases that occur most among the poverty which is malaria and tuberculosis. This technology is known as the INNOVAC, Highly innovative strategies for vaccination to poverty-related diseases. The discovery of the new technology also results from many challenge experiments as well as trying to apply the vaccines into both animals and humans which help the scientists practice their skills in real life situation. Additionally, during the experiments, the vaccine-producing agency will also participate and able to transfer the technology to other country partners as well (“Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Southeast Asian Nations and the European Union: Past achievements and future prospects,” n.d.). As claimed by the book, the author guaranteed that by collaborating with the European countries will help the country that participating enhance the quality of lab, research and especially medical technology and new innovations. Not to mention, articles from health organizations informed about the extra account in the social security system that supplies the stability for the citizens in the future. As specified by Ministry of Health in Singapore, to provide the sustainability in long term for the citizens, the Government of Singapore added the Medisave account in order to help the citizens save the money for immediate hospitalization, outpatient and hospital fee such as surgery. Furthermore, another thing that came with this account is that the citizens will be able to perform health screening first in order to check

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Pimchanok Temmart (Mui) G.1108

whether they have any chronic diseases even though the symptoms are not presented. Nonetheless, the government did not allow the citizens to withdraw every diseases that occurred. There are some limitations due to preventing the misuse of the Medisave accounts hence, the sustainability of the citizens will not decrease (“Schemes & Subsidies,” 2015). In accordance with the news, the author supported that the government of Singapore has been working with people in the country to provide and regain the stability in long-term particularly after retirement. In brief, by refining the healthcare system in Thailand, as stated by many books and articles, the government should subsidize and collaborate with the European country for developing the medical technology and also ought to cooperate with the citizens to provide the sustainability at future life.

Conclusion

In the final analysis, Thailand healthcare system needs to be reconsidered and modified comparing to the quality of the healthcare system in Singapore. Research from the National University of Singapore supported and assured that well-planned social security system in Singapore such as the restriction of the pre-retirement withdrawals can contribute to a good quality healthcare system which is not presented in Thailand and ultimately lead to low stability especially for the retirees. Singapore is now turning to be the central medical hub in ASEAN and Asia which many technological advancements will be involved while in Thailand is still much more delay. Critics of news in Thailand, The Nation, mentioned that lacking the fund and the support from the government also finally lead to the decrease of the quality of healthcare system in Thailand as well. Besides, not only focusing to cooperate with the other country to develop the healthcare system, but the government should also work with the citizens as well. Healthcare system is one of the most crucial things in citizens’s life. The high quality of the healthcare system can contribute and raise to a better life for the citizens at the older age which finally reduce the burden for the next generation

Thailand healthcare system needs to be refined.

Pimchanok Temmart (Mui) G.1108

too. The government needs to be aware of these things in order to meet the needs of the citizens in the country. Citizens's life quality and health are the first priority.

References

- Asher, M. G. (n.d.). *Social Security Reform Imperatives: The Southeast Asian Case*. Retrieved January 31, 2017 from <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN92498.pdf>
- Fundings and Medical Research* (2011). Retrieved February 17, 2017 from https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/Fundings_and_Medical_Research.html
- Lawrence, B. R. (2012). *To fix Medicare and Social Security, look to Singapore*. Retrieved January 30, 2017 from https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/to-fix-medicare-and-social-security-look-to-singapore/2012/08/16/e39e0ff8-e70f-11e1-8f62-58260e3940a0_story.html?utm_term=.55ea5a47783d
- Medical Technology* (2017). Retrieved February 10, 2017 from <https://www.edb.gov.sg/content/edb/en/industries/industries/medtech.html>
- Rujivanarom, P. (2015). *Medical researchers call for more govt funding*. Retrieved February 10, 2016 from <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/news/national/aec/30260328>
- Schemes & Subsidies* (2015). Retrieved February 16, 2017 from https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/costs_and_financing/schemes_subsidies.html
- Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Southeast Asian Nations and the European Union: Past achievements and future prospects* (n.d.). Belgium: European Commission
- Social Security System of Singapore* (2016). Retrieved January 30, 2017 from <http://www.mol.go.th/content/52377/1470640336>
- Yong, G. K. (2015). *A perspective of future healthcare landscape in ASEAN and Singapore*. Singapore Ministry of Health