

Healthcare Precedence for the Future

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Opinion Article

At the turn of the last century, three major concerns involving human beings have come to the limelight which includes a drastic increase in human population with a concomitant growth in overall life expectancy, global warming and the rise of terrorism in one or its many forms. Added to this I feel one should not overlook the fact that extinction of living species (plant and animal) that is taking place as a result of human encroachment along with parasitic depletion of natural resources is in fact depriving the planet of its self-cleansing feature that it inherits. The balance between the consumer (human) and the provider (earth) is further affected by a negligible replacement of such sources (example forests). The situation gets more complex if one analyses the twenty first century life style of human beings where internet and cellular phones have become part of everyday life. Such life style is essential to keep pace with the opportunities that global industrialisation provides to us. In the prism of such dynamic affairs one must expect new challenges in health care industry.

Globally, most of the developing and underdeveloped nations have failed to provide basic health care facility to its people in the last century. This led to most of the governments develop policies that encouraged investment from corporates in health care sector. Financially lucrative health care sector has already been exploited by the corporates which has given rise to health insurance. One way or the other, although the rich and powerful in this world have access to health care system, the serious problem lies how to provide adequate health care facility for the poor and downtrodden. On one side, I have seen patients seeking treatment procedures like implant supported prosthesis or aesthetic facial lifts (even though the treatment is contraindicated in them, they continue to get such treatment privileges), I must admit that I also have been a witness to a situation

in a government hospital outside the gynecology outpatient waiting area where there were more than three hundred ladies waiting to seek consultation. Among them I also came to see that many genuine emergency cases did not get due attention. Scientifically, we don't even know how many patients die because they do not get proper health care attention at the right time.

The relation between current global problems should not be ruled out, one thing at least is common and that is they are created by humans. Increase in frequency of natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, droughts and floods is not making things better for anyone. Diseases like swine flu, bird flu, ebola or corona visit countries regularly rather than occur as a rarity. Meanwhile, the gap between the rich and poor is becoming wider and wider with rich getting more rich and poor becoming more poor. Healthy food, shelter, medicine and clothes are still a dream in the eyes of the poor. Living conditions, sanitation, drinking water, garbage disposal and personal hygiene are of grave concern among governments and communities. It is in the realm of such affairs I strongly feel that preventive health care holds a momentous and substantial role in the next century where the clash between rich and poor may not necessarily be financial in nature. Preventive medicine at social and community level need to be proactive in both clinical and academic fields and anticipate challenges that have risen as a result of the current global problems. Besides, it is the responsibility of every health care worker to strike the balance in morals and ethics whether one works in a government or in private sector. Remember, nature has proven to humans that the solution to every problem cannot be resolved with money and this time it isn't different. The present generation need not follow the footsteps that have been left behind, nor need they make the mistakes which we did.