

Just Few Thoughts...

In recent times, the world has seen tremendous progress in the field of basic sciences. This has also reflected in the great progress made in the arena of medical field. The developed nations have had the maximum benefit of such progress, and this has resulted in an ever increasing gap between medical facilities in the Western world and that in the less developed countries.

The progress and research in the medical sphere comes at a great price. To begin with, it needs heavy investment in both man and machine. The newly discovered drugs, devices, and surgical instrumentations are really costly, some of them are prohibitively so. Moreover, pharmaceutical industry counts among the top industries that make highest profit on their turnover.

Many of the medical diseases have not changed much in the past decade globally. Several of these are at least partially preventable. In addition, many chronic diseases prevalent in Western countries are also becoming common in developing countries, particularly among certain sections of the society. These factors put tremendous financial burden on health care system in such countries.

The developing nations are already facing many challenging health care problems, particularly those related to communicable diseases, poor sanitation, and malnutrition.

Infectious diseases have been the major health problems in both the developed and developing world since a long time. In recent times, emerging pathogens, from HIV/AIDS to SARS to avian influenza, are a constant and rapidly evolving threat. Moreover, the bacteria are fast developing resistance to many antibiotics threatening to negate the gains achieved in control of many infections. The recent emergence of Ebola epidemic is particularly an eye-opener. It is clear that the initial handling of Ebola outbreak was far from optimal. Neither is it the first epidemic, nor will it be the last one. But, are we prepared for such future epidemics on a global basis? The answer is definitely a No.

The global collective action to decrease the impact of major communicable diseases such as diarrhea, tuberculosis, measles, tetanus, and, more recently, HIV/AIDS and malaria, is showing slow progress, but still requires mammoth interventional efforts and considerable resources.

The developing countries lack resources for medical research and development, and international aids may not be available forever. Hence, there is an urgent need to engage young scientists in the field of basic research, so that affordable solutions can be discovered.

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