

Editorial

Business Principles in Health Care

Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Jagdish L Baidya, FRCS, FCPS

Prof. Ashok K Banskota, MD, FACS

Health care, as sensitive and vital issue as it is, becoming more and more challenging to deliver uniformly to all strata of the communities the world over! Compassion is an integral part of health care, but when the technological costs of treatments come into play, intelligent and practical business principles must be put into practice for any long-term sustainability.

The experience of developed countries has shown that a judicious balance of governmental policies, insurance schemes and selective subsidies can work. Where the balance is disturbed, large segments of the population even in a wealthy nation may suffer from lack of appropriate health coverage. Where some semblance of a balance has been struck, there are still dissatisfied groups or segments of society that feel more needs to be done.

The problem facing countries such as our's are not unique in the group of developing or under developed nations. Poverty and all it's social consequences make health care a pipe dream for most. Preventive health care

is of the utmost importance. Availability of timely treatment of simple problems can prevent many complications which are more difficult and expensive to treat.

As technology starts to creep into the arena of health care, intelligent market study to get the best options for a bargain is vital. Thus, management principles are playing a more important role in health care institutions. It is no longer enough to first be the doctor managing the show. Business principles can be implemented at each level of service delivery for more efficiency and cost reduction. The markets are enlarging day by day and it becomes near impossible to make the best choices of the wide variety of materials that need to be purchased on a regular basis to run the hospital. People who are adept in their aspects of management are certainly an asset to run health institutions efficiently without compromising patient care. Compassionate expertise coupled with good business principles must go hand in hand to make health care more affordable.

B & B Mouthpiece

HRDC - Health Hazards

Amongst the numerous hazards that infants and toddlers face in the typical rural Nepali village home, falling into open fires continues to be an important cause of morbidity and mortality. Despite decades of service, burn contracture releases and rehabilitation continues to be an important part of our work at HRDC. Just in the past year, nearly four hundred children required intervention (plastic surgery) for the sequelae of burns sustained at home, mostly from open wood fire.

Improving safety for the growing child in the home environment is fundamental. It seems absurd that such accidents still continue to happen. Often toddlers attend to infants while parents are busy working in the fields or elsewhere. The recipe for disaster is ripe, just around the corner.

There is a great need for heightened awareness drives in rural communities to highlight the serious hazards of open fire cooking. Safer and less hazardous cooking amenities must be made available in the rural communities to eliminate the menace of home burns in children. Where accidents do occur, early, prompt and appropriate care would help prevent or minimize many serious complications.

Story

Huma Pun was 16 years old when she was first evaluated at our field clinic in Gulmi one day. Having lost her mother early, she had a very rough upbringing, the culmination being the accident of falling

into the open fire, burning her legs, which auto amputated because of complications. Crawling was her mode of mobility. Shunned and ostracized by many in the village and school, her life was a bundle of misery.





Once Huma was under the care of HRDC, her life has taken a full turn around. The amputation stumps of both legs were revised and she was fitted with prosthetic



legs bilaterally. The result was nothing short of dramatic. Huma has regained her mobility and is gaining her confidence gradually to meet the challenges of life that lie ahead of her.

Hospital Management

