

Editorial

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Looming Challenges in Health Services Delivery

Slogans such as “Free Health Care for all” sound and sell but represent only ploys for vested gains by leaders proclaiming themselves saviours of the masses. “Health Care” is a very vast narrative encompassing issues from the “cradle to the grave”. No government in the world, not even the wealthiest amongst them has been able to create and execute completely, successfully, such a “blanket” health care formula!

Preventive health care measures can be effectively implemented in many conditions, as has been demonstrated in the successful eradication of some infectious diseases. Primitive health care can be relatively easier to implement through measures targeting health education, legislation and quality control. These measures can help to address the alarming escalation, worldwide, of

many so called “new world ailments”; to name a few diabetes mellitus, obesity and road traffic accidents.

Curative treatments on the other hand represents a completely different ballgame equated with costs and skilled personnel and a wide variety of expensive technologies, for ever changing and advancing precisions in both diagnostic and therapeutic scopes. The burden of “Keeping up” and replenishing technology in hospitals is enormous, and there is very scanty understanding of these challenges faced by private institutions active in health care. The other burning issue is the challenge to replenish our rapidly diminishing paramedical workforce, more precisely our Nursing Personnel who are leaving the country for greener pastures where new opportunities

have become available, following geo-political crises! Along with continued forecasted shortages in Nursing, the seats available for training in non-governmental Nursing Schools are falling vacant in large numbers, due largely to a variety of problems such as erratic policy decisions, failure to co-ordinate timings of examination results and admission time schedules! Whereas, the Institutions that could be training

much needed manpower are struggling to stay afloat. The looming disaster of shortage of professionals in Nursing the country will be facing, does not seem to ring bells where they need to be heard! We can only bite our tongue and hope sense prevails and co-ordination ensues amongst those formulating policies and enforcing them. When, if ever, our voices might be heeded seems to be a forlorn thought only!