

Village Adoption Scheme

Theory of the Practice

Hospital serves to those patients who are visiting the centre with complaints. After thorough clinical examination and necessary quick investigations, many patients receive treatment on outpatient basis. Some of these patients where further detailed investigations are necessary to arrive at definitive diagnosis are advised admission to the hospital as inpatients.

However, there are individuals suffering from ailments but could not access the hospital. There are another group of individuals who are in the initial stages of a disease but not exhibiting any suffering. The third group need protection and promotion of their health on a continuous basis, so that they will be protected from ill-health. In order to practice clinical medicine and offer healthcare services to those who are situated away from the hospital, targeted healthcare services are necessary. In other words, a hospital without walls needs to be created. The extension services of the hospital shall be able to offer training to students (undergraduate & postgraduate) to learn and experience the disease chronology right from healthy state to diseased state and finally after the recovery stage. Such an exposure is necessary to medical students to appreciate health problems and the interplay of various factors affecting it.

Objectives of the Practice

The objectives of the program are as follows:

1. To extend the preventive, promotive and ambulatory curative services to rural population
2. To improve the health literacy among rural folk
3. To train medical students in continuum of healthcare services
4. To facilitate rural exposure to medical students for thorough understanding of rural health problems and their solutions
5. To motivate students, choose rural health care delivery as their professional option

The Context

Medical colleges in India are situated either in urban area or peri urban area. Students study the disease and the management of disease in closed wall of the hospital. The disease situation in the community living in rural areas is unknown to them. In India, more than 65% of the population live in rural areas. The medical professionals trained in urban / per-urban areas are reluctant to setup practice in rural areas and are unwilling to work in rural areas. This situation has created imbalance and skewed distribution of doctor population ratio.

Majority of the medical practitioners are in urban area where as majority of the population is in rural area. In order to correct this disparity, doctors need motivation to work in rural area.

The village adoption scheme is the brainchild of the Narayana Medical College founder, Dr Narayana. His home town is a village near Nellore. He is determined to provide comprehensive general as well as specialist healthcare services to people living in his native village. This scheme is formulated to provide free medical and healthcare services to villagers of Thotapalli Gudur. The villagers who consult the Narayana Medical College for their ailments are also treated free of cost.

The Practice

Thotapalli Gudur is the native place of the founder of Narayana Educational Institutions. Hence, he decided that Narayana medical College shall adapt this village for all it's health and health related issues. A small clinic in the vicinity of the village was constructed and one coordinator has been assigned to oversee the village adaptation program.

Every day family medicine doctors, specialists from various disciplines, nursing staff and paramedical personnel start for the village in a dedicated vehicle at 8.00 am. The village is situated 15 kms away from the hospital premises. After reaching the village, they examine and treat the villagers who visit the outpatient clinic for their health ailments. They were examined and necessary medications are prescribed. If investigations are necessary to arrive at the diagnosis, such patients are brought to the base hospital for further management. In the afternoon, family medicine doctors are engaged in the health education activities aimed at improving the health literacy of the community.

Students of Narayana Medical College are also exposed to the rural environment through regular visits to this village. Each student is allotted 2-3 families. The student initially will study the family social, economic, environmental and physical status. She/ he will note down the description of the house, the household surroundings and collect data on water supply, sanitation. She/ he shall conduct independent interviews with the family members to collect data on health and health related history. If there are any signs of health status deviation, students shall arrange for the physical examination and necessary investigations. After establishing rapport with the family, she/ he would offer health education and facilitate environmental modification suitable for good health.

Evidence of Success

This program is in vogue for the past 15 years. The success of the program is evidenced by the number of patients consulting the outpatient clinic at the village. The formal and informal leaders expressed satisfaction towards their association with Narayana Medical College and Hospital. They take pride in expressing the meteoric rise of one of their village inhabitants to an enviable position in the society. The village leaders are happy to share that because of the Village health adaptation scheme, they need not allocate separate fund for health activities and these hoarded resources are now available for the further developmental work of the village.


Principal
NARAYANA MEDICAL COLLEGE
Chinthareddypalem, Nellore-3

Problems encountered and Resources required

Initially, there are umpteen hurdles encountered in the form of non-cooperation and expression of lack of faith in the health services offered by Narayana medical College. Over a period of 2-3 years and after witnessing the beneficial effects of the Village Adaptation Scheme, Villagers came forward voluntarily and started utilising the services.

As the institute is offering postgraduate and super-specialty training courses, there is no dearth of availability of specialist doctors to conduct the village clinic. However, the availability of vehicle and the vehicle driver infrequently poses delay in conducting the health clinic.

Notes (optional)

All the villagers are now habituated to come forward to avail the health services of Narayana Medical College & Hospital. Besides, a health bulletin in local language published from Narayana Medical College and is distributed to free to the villagers.


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