Palliative Care: Where Treatments and Compassion Go Hand in Hand

India’s population is evolving and aging. With the geriatric age group expected to constitute 11% share by 2023, the need for Palliative Care is also growing and several big health institutions and centers have made it an integral part of services. With a focus on prevention, wellness, and cure, palliative care is equally important in promoting health, relieving suffering, restoring functional capacity and caring for those who cannot be cured, according to experts.

It is an interdisciplinary approach to specialized medical and nursing care that improves the quality of life in patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-limiting illnesses. It helps people with a serious illness feel better. Palliative medicine care prevents or treats symptoms and/or side effects of disease and its treatment. It helps reduce their suffering by means of controlling their pain, physical stress and mental stress at any stage of illness.
Palliative Care: Where Treatments & Compassion go together

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by Shrutee K/DNS

Mumbai, April 17, 2019: India’s population is evolving and aging. With the geriatric age group expected to constitute 11% share by 2025*, the need for Palliative Care is also growing and several big health institutions and centers have made it an integral part of services. With a focus on prevention, wellness, and cure, palliative care is equally important is promoting health, relieving suffering, restoring functional capacity and caring for those who cannot be cured, according to experts.

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"Under Palliative care, we try to convince patients that it affirms life and regards death as a normal process. We do not intend to either hasten or prolongs death and try to provide relief from pain and other distressing symptoms. Combining the psychological and spiritual aspects of care helps a lot. Our aim is to offer a support system to help patients & families live as actively as possible till death”, Dr. Meghna Patwardhan – Consultant Palliative and Pain medicine, Nanavati Super Specialty Hospital. A team of palliative care specialists identify the needs and provide an entire range of services required.
Poll Manifestos: A Look At The Pre-Election Promises

As the nation goes to polls and the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party unveil their election manifestos, Prabodh Krishna does a reality check on the pre-election pledges of the two largest political formations.

Farmers

The Congress Party’s election manifesto promises a separate ‘Kisan Budget’ every year. The party promises to create a permanent National Commission on Agricultural Development and Planning: “Congress set our Kisans on the path to Kazi Mukti, or freedom from indebtedness. Debt is a civil liability and we will not allow criminal proceedings to be instituted against a farmer who is unable to pay his/her debt. The Congress manifesto promises to set up a permanent National Commission on Agricultural Development and Planning and to revamp the Fasal Bima Yojana,” the document says.

The BJP poll manifesto promises to “provide short-term new agriculture loans up to Rs 1 lakh at 0% interest rate for 1-5 years on the condition of prompt repayment of the principal amount.” The loan is intended to double the income of farmers by 2022. The BJP vows to work toward digitising land records and to ensure adequate market avenues for farmers. It also promises pensions for marginal farmers.
Ayushman Bharat should become an instrument of positive change: Siddhartha Bhattacharya

There are significant experiments already in the form of Ayushman Bharat which is a major step towards universal health coverage. It has been a program that was launched six months back and already showing lot of hope in terms of scaling that up in all the states and across India.

Shahid Akhtar, ETHealthworld spoke to Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary General at NATHEALTH, New Delhi to know about healthcare priorities that NATHEALTH is focusing on.

Healthcare in India

Healthcare in India is at a very interesting juncture and the country has made significant progress over the last 23 years, if you take a short and long term view. Significant gains in terms of eradication of polio, life expectancy has dramatically grown up. India has also made significant amount of progress in institutional deliveries and in many other areas, at macro health perspective.

There are significant challenges, however, India’s resurgence as a major economic power is it is expected to be one of top five economies globally in the next 10 years. India still needs to make significant improvements in terms of its overall health systems outcomes.

There is definitely a looming threat of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs). India has one of the largest out-of-pocket expenditures in the world. Nearly 55% of the spent is out-of-pocket at a point of healthcare service where a consumer is looking for a service. This leads to massive catastrophic impact and leads to poverty.

India also looking at driving inequality and inequities in healthcare because significant difference is in quality of healthcare exists between urban, rural, and remote parts of India. Bringing a comprehensive, well organized healthcare delivery system that is coupled with good health financing that provides Universal coverage to each and every citizen is of paramount importance for policymakers as well as for people of India.

National Healthcare Agenda is ambitious and it will require stronger partnership between Government and Industry. NATH*HEALTH

- From Health for All, Higher spending to scaling up Ayushman Bharat & creating robust infrastructure, Future goals set in political health manifestos are achievable only with robust partnerships.

Coming out with a clear and actionable national health agenda, as envisioned by Indian political leadership, is a move in the right direction and will equip the new government to expedite the promises for achieving the goal of universal health coverage, according to NATH*HEALTH.

National healthcare agenda includes empowering people with Healthcare for All, Higher spending, creating one medical college in each district, scaling up Ayushman Bharat and creating a robust health system for health for all are actionable. The industry will continue to collaborate to create a new and robust healthcare ecosystem.

The Indian Healthcare Industry has been collaborating with the government at all levels to push efforts for achieving the goal of ‘Health for All’. However, a comprehensive National Health Agenda would certainly provide a fresh impetus for creating a new healthcare system.

A comprehensive health agenda needs active support from private sector which is playing a critical role in providing access and quality health service to people across the country.