

LATER, IN THIS AFTERNOON'S PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIMARY CARE, DR. M.K. RAJAKUMAR OF MALAYSIA NOTED THAT THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN IS THE IDEAL AND MOST SOPHISTICATED WAY TO PRACTICE PRIMARY CARE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MODE OF DELIVERY OF MEDICAL CARE AND IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAL THE RIFT BETWEEN DOCTOR AND THE POPULATION, BROUGHT ABOUT BY HOSPITAL MEDICINE.

DR. RAJAKUMAR CONCLUDED THAT THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY PHYSICIAN MUST NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BECOME PRE-OCCUPIED WITH PERIPHERAL ISSUES BUT SHOULD DIRECT THEIR ENERGY TOWARDS BRINGING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE BACK INTO THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.

DR. FRED SAMUEL OF SINGAPORE; IN HIS PAPER-'THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER IN HOSPITAL' PROPOSED VISITING PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN HOSPITALS TOGETHER WITH DELINEATION OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO ADMIT AND TREAT PATIENTS.

DR. SAMUEL ASSERTED THAT AMONG THE SPIN-OFF BENEFITS IS AN ACCESS TO PRIMARY RESOURCE MATERIAL OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED, OBSERVED AND MANAGED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

ANOTHER ADVANTAGE, HE SAID, WOULD BE THE CONVENIENCE OF GETTING A SECOND OPINION, SUITABLE INVESTIGATIONS AND ANXILLARY MEDICAL CARE. — BERNAMA MORE 1703/YF

MAHATHIR -6- KUALA LUMPUR

DR. S.H. NAQVI, SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY MEDICINE, PAKISTAN, POINTED OUT THAT REORIENTING THE CURRICULUM AT UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL TO ACCOMODATE THE MODERN COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPT OF FAMILY MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE WOULD HELP MAINTAIN HEALTH STANDARDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

ACCORDING TO DR. NAQVI, THE MAIN CAUSE OF DRUG-ORIENTED ROUTINE AND REDUNDANT PRESCRIPTIONS IS DUE TO TRADITIONAL METHODS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE WITHOUT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

THIS, HE SAID, MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ABSENCE OF COMPULSION FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION, LACK OF MOTIVATION, APATHY AND TREMENDOUS PRESSURE OF WORK LOAD.

HE URGED GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS TO HAVE IN THEIR LIST OF PRIORITIES:

- + AN ACCEPTABLE AND EFFECTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION.
- + PREVENTION OF DISEASES AND MALNUTRITION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS.
- + MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PRACTISING DOCTORS
- + MOTIVATING THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGE OF KNOW-HOW AND EXPERTISE.

IF PEOPLE ARE STILL IGNORANT ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES OF BASIC HYGIENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONTINUES TO BE INFESTED WITH DANGEROUS VECTORS AND FOOD IS ADULTERATED, MILLIONS WILL CONTINUE TO FALL ILL HE SAID.

DR. NAQVI STRESSED THAT HEALTH MUST BE THE RESULT OF A CONSCIOUS ATTITUDE. -- BERNAMA 1708/YF