

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI  
Tajuk : THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF PERSATUAN PENDIDIKAN SAINS PERUBATAN DAN KESIHATAN  
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Dato Seri Datin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah started off by mentioning that one of the ways of meeting the objective of health for all by the year 2000 set by the World Health Organisation is by producing sufficient and appropriate numbers of health workers. She pointed out that the chief factors that determine the quality of health care delivery system are allocation of resources, proper planning and administration and training and education of health personnels (nurses, health inspectors, laboratory technologist, radiographers, physiotherapists, mid-wives, doctors and specialists). She realised that the Alma Ata Declaration of September, 1978 has directed the Ministry of Health to set more emphasis on primary health care, a system which should be geared towards the rural and underprivileged areas. Thus, more health personnel should be encouraged to serve in the community, she urged. One of the ways of doing this is by ensuring our teaching of health workers to be less hospital-based, which is inclined towards proliferation of specialists/subspecialists elitist group, but instead more oriented towards community and public health. She also suggested that the conventional system of medical teaching should be changed to a method which is practical and task orientated, problem based and directed towards meeting current needs of the community and problems (drug addiction, smoking, alcoholism, juvenile delinquency:- problems which lead to an increase in road traffic accidents and rural-urban migration).

2. Other than setting up teaching clinics which can be linked to hospital for consultations with physicians, basic health care schemes can be provided in the community. Dr. Siti Hasmah envisaged that hospital-based teachers could attract more young doctors to appreciate and solve the problems of the rural community by playing an exemplary role and by orientating students to recognise the social customs and practices, and problems like protein-energy malnutrition, which are as important as the diagnosing of diseases.

3. Dr. Siti Hasmah also recognised that the spirit of teamwork and cooperation which can foster closer relationship among those involved is basically essential in primary health care system, a program that requires collaboration of health workers with all other people from various professions and public bodies and more important with the community at large.

4. She praised the setting up of Persatuan Pendidikan Sains Perubatan dan Kesihatan which would later set itself with activities directed toward the teaching and development of skills in teamwork cooperation among students from various disciplines. Dr. Siti Hasmah called the association to promote the advancement of teachers in professional disciplines as well as to upgrade the training of medical auxiliaries to a higher level.

5. Dato Seri Datin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah also believed that this body can play a role in assisting teachers to be more effective in their profession by not only imparting knowledge and developing psychomotor skills but also by inculcating healthy attitudes and work ethics to the students. She associated poor human relationship and arrogant behaviour towards colleagues and patients to an ineffective and unsuccessful teaching approach towards the students.

6. Finally, she suggested that evaluation of performance should be carried out on both parties -- teachers and learners, for if one recognises his/her own deficiencies, new ideas and innovations could be introduced. The hallmark of a responsible citizen/teacher is to be prepared to give our level best with the available resources.