Editorial on COVID 19 and Changing World

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Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19), is still unknown in many aspect. Starting from Wuhan, China the illness has been spread worldwide. The coronavirus crisis highlights a number of inherent weaknesses in our existing healthcare system. Till we develop vaccine, we are trying different preventive precautions to slow down or halt its spread. The world’s best medical minds are working on finding the answers, how to stop this pandemic.

To fight COVID 19 from affecting community one of the ways is implementing lockdown. Indeed a new thing in our life that we never experienced. Every country has adopted this to prevent viral spread of corona virus. Spending periods in lockdown is much easier for those who live in houses with adequate rooms and spaces. In developing countries where a large part of community lives in crowded cities and slums and share their living spaces and toilets with others, lockdown is a harder way to follow. Another problem is failure to maintain social distancing in public places and proper use of face mask. It may seem that they do not appreciate the seriousness of this disease. Most of the people explain these failures by mentioning that they need to earn money through vending or by doing small jobs, and then they join the queue in the market to buy basics. They don’t have enough money to buy things for daily life at once for seven days. Truly poor economy is also biting with COVID 19. Another sad and bitter truth is that many of our people knows that if they or their family members get seriously ill, they will die; as healthcare is also immature in these developing countries and critical care is unaffordable. Some feel they are more likely to die of hunger before COVID 19 kills them. Most government in developing world do not pay social and health benefits; as they mention in campaign of political election. Most governments do not consult appropriate communities on how they would like to respond to crises like Covid-19.

A targeted hotspot approach may be an option for total lockdown in countries where community transmission has become established. A good information systems, mobile lab facilities, rapid response teams are necessary for a targeted hotspot approach.

For managing pandemic sharing of information from experiences is important. In this era of internet it is much easy to get new information, case studies, guidelines, research articles. We can learn from the experiences of those who faced similar challenges before us. A doctor in a district hospital of Bangladesh can get the workplace experience of doctors working in USA or UK. Asking an expert in any part of the world is possible via different platforms. Knowledge is not a problem in pandemic, implementation of knowledge is not possible always as not all countries have same medical resources. Sharing health related information with people is easier than any time before. Only problem in information abundance is possibility of fake information.

Many aspects of life will never be the same after this pandemic. Some innovations are made that are great, such as using drone for surveillance, telemedicine robots in screening and observing COVID patients, telemedicine in identifying and treating patients. Social media are being used not only to share emotions, but also to share important information, to mobilize people and to take action. Social media is providing words of encouragement, support and hope to frontline fighters and those who are coping with this disease. Sharing ideas provides clues on how to deal with specific problems in COVID pandemic.

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In this pandemic we understood that for providing better health care it is essential to build a well trained, well supported primary health care, especially in developing countries. Focusing on development of super specialty hospitals in resource limited countries have failed to fulfill the treatment demand of community in this pandemic.

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