

Editorial

Community Based Pathology

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The basic aim of medical profession is to provide health facilities to population at large. As far as the medical education and research is concerned, there must be reflection of the society in these activities. The people related with medical education and research, undoubtedly, are doing their utmost in their provided facilities in this regard. The internet and international literature has given an apparent cosmetic value to the research activities. But the real question is the worth of these activities on grass root level.

A country like Pakistan, which in the last few years slipped down over the ladder of poverty from position 136 to 144, where more than 40 percent of populace are living below the poverty line, majority of people are deprived of basic health facilities and rural population constitutes approximately 60%, is it not justified that the true presentation of the data must have an inclusion of all the strata of society especially the down trodden.

We have to think that in an attempt to reach the skies our feet should remain on ground. Molecular level, genes, receptors all intruded in our research but what we lose by this should not be our common man; where it affected the other fields, the Pathology is not an exception, rather Pathology is the most effected. We failed to determine the reference ranges of different analytes. The prevalence and incidence of different diseases is still undetermined. Studies addressing the factors leading to different anaemias and then in turn to find out the rate of different anaemias are yet not reach fruition. A few research papers are available on this subject. The geographical distribution of diseases is a matter still not addressed adequately.

Most of the research work is taking place in tertiary care medical centres. In these centres patients present after being they are filtered, and many of these centres cater a classified class. Now it might be a pertinent point that is all the pathology is in laboratories? or moving out of the atmosphere of the laboratories there are subjects related to Pathology which can be searched into the streets, fields, and villages.

The need is there that research projects should

be designed which are community based. In these projects different problems related to different health indicators of the society should be addressed. We are dealing with the 'patients' who present to us with different complaints. Will it not be worthwhile that we, by ourselves, reach the 'people', living in different localities and address their surroundings, geology, diet and disease patterns? In these projects if medical students are involved then they can be proved as an excellent working force. The bodies and forums dealing with training and examinations in pathology and taking care of congregations of pathologies can give a meaning to all this.

We will have to look into the things with fresh and wondering vision of a child rather than with the tired eyes of the adult. Our research should focus life with passion for people who are the last, the least, the lowest, and the lost. We have to light our own fire and will have to pursue our own objectives.

The beauty of knowledge lies in its capacity to absorb the every avenue of the life to its full extent, just as if an ounce of blood penetrating, traversing and naurshing each and every inch, tissue and cell of body. The part of the body which does not receives an adequate supply ultimately becomes paralyzed and inch by inch, limb by limb, pore by pore the essence of life oozes out of motionless bodies. So the knowledge which does not have awareness of each and every strata of society will not flourish rather it is doomed to perish.

All human progress is preceded by a question. So, at the first instance we will have to frame some questions keeping in mind our community. If we can specify the environment completely then even we can predict the outcomes. A national AIDS control programme is there, but why don't we make efforts to address the matter of tuberculosis and hepatitis diagnosis on country wide basis. We still don't have country wide tumour registaries. We desperately need meaning in our lives and our systems. We have to sacrifice a great deal for establishing norms and patterns which can give meaning to our activities. We simultaneously need independence, to feel though we

are Incharge of our destinies and to have the ability to stick out.