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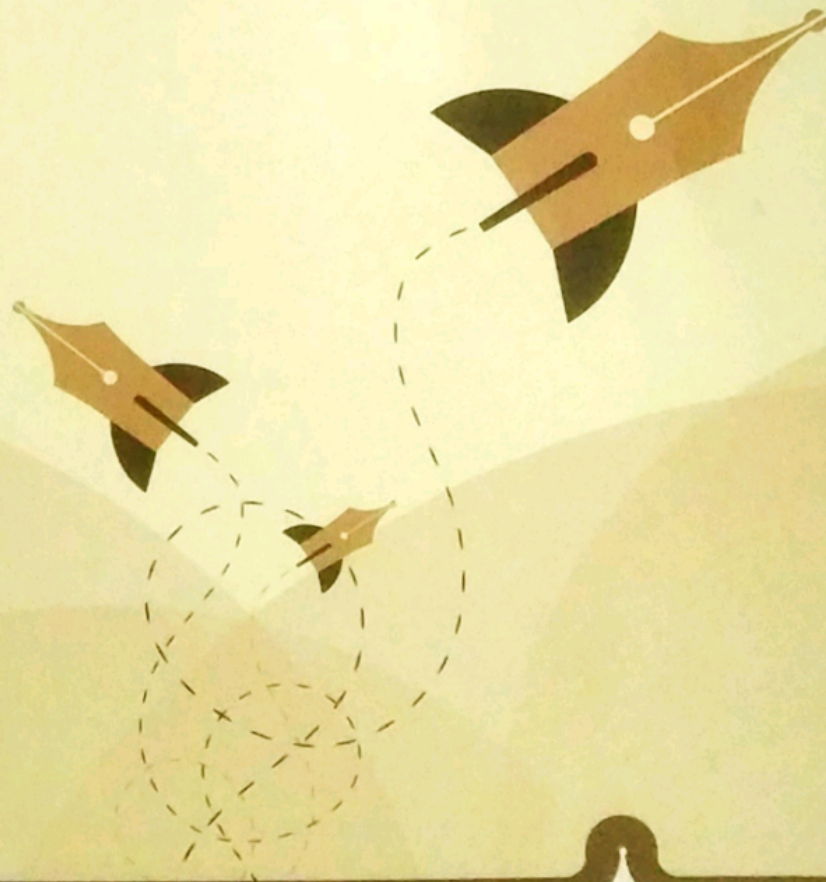
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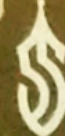
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INCLUSIVE HEALTH CARE STRATEGY : A CASE OF PALLIATIVE HEALTH CARE IN KERALA

□ Lakshmi N

ABSTRACT

Inclusive health care strategy means making sure everyone is included regardless of their economic class, gender, sex, disability & religion. Health for all means that health is to be brought within the reach of everyone in a given community. Health care is a public right and it is the responsibility of governments to provide this care to all people in equal measure. Palliative health care provides access to basic health services to all patients irrespective of income, age, disease type etc. The 'Kerala Model' is a very popular in the country with its own palliative policy. Home-based care is the cornerstone of palliative care in Kerala.

Keywords : Palliative care, Kerala model, Home-based care, Local-self government

Introduction

Inclusive health care strategy means making sure everyone is included regardless of their economic class, gender, sex, disability & religion. The 30th World Health Assembly resolved in May 1977 that "the main social target of governments and WHO in the coming decades should be the attainment of all citizens of the world by year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life" that is "Health for all" by the year 2000 as the goal of all governments. Health for all means that health is to be brought within the reach of everyone in a given community. According to the WHO Constitution: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being".

Health care is a public right and it is the responsibility of governments to provide this care to all people in equal measure. Health services are designed to meet the health needs of the community through the use of available knowledge and resources. The purpose of

health care services is to improve the health status of the population. Palliative care system has an important role in now a day because the existing health-care facilities play only a limited role in the care of the chronically ill in the society. Palliative care should be provided through physical, social, psychological, financial and spiritual care given by doctors, nurses and trained volunteers. It provides access to basic health services to all patients irrespective of income, age, disease type etc.

World Health Organization is developing various activities related to palliative care which give emphasis on the integration of palliative care in to the existing health care system. A comprehensive palliative care programmes includes the following key components like policy development, education and training, provision of good quality care (including home care) and drug availability. Palliative care is one of the priority areas of the WHO Programme on Cancer Control and two initiatives are being developed: a palliative care project in Africa for HIV/AIDS and cancer patients, and a European project for improving the performance of cancer control programme (Sepuldeva et.al, 2002)

WHO developed a public health model of

*Assistant Professor - Department of Economics, NSS College, Pandalam