

Commentary

New Imperatives for Our Better Future

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Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS) is the mainstream university for health education in Rajasthan. Its main objective is to provide optimal conditions to pupils of medical sciences, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, nursing and various paramedical courses to learn and to achieve acclaimed positions in their career to serve mankind. At RUHS, teaching is supported by fostering passion for value based education and research.

Universities are creators of new knowledge and original ideas. A university engages its capacity across the full range of academic discipline. RUHS in its role as a health university contributes in achieving national health targets. Higher education meets research at RUHS and to maintain and improve quality of higher education and health care, we strive to provide best possible tools, viz., modern infrastructure with services of eminent teachers.

Basic minimum qualifications for our faculties are laid down by various regulatory bodies such as Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, Nursing Council of India along with our own university criteria in respective colleges of the university. Growth should not cease for an institute dreaming for excellence and it is necessary to look beyond minimum requirements and aspire for excellence. RUHS aims to develop multispecialty centres across the state to encourage appropriateness, efficiency, efficacy and effectiveness of health care.

Financial concerns have a consequential impact in the expansion of facilities in a health university. A university has to plan for the long term and deliver long-term perspective. Universities are unique institutions and places of transformation where future is made. Universities are also places that are constantly being

reshaped. Time has arrived to adapt to new needs and anticipate the future.

Fostering collaborations:

Over coming years population and their needs in country are poised to increase and our health systems shall have to tackle the expected surge in demand for health services. This puts significant financial pressure on the government. The challenges facing the health system are too big to be undertaken by the government alone. Considering the efficient and effective delivery of public services now and in future we should look to the non-government sector for partnership. A network between clinical health care systems, public health agencies and for growth of health sector can be achieved by such collaboration. This shall ensure that we will remain at the forefront of academic activity in education and research. Also, health care can be catered to the rural and remote areas providing high quality treatment at reasonable cost to the households incurring catastrophic health expenditure. It is essential to explore innovative ways to increase investment in health infrastructure and to evaluate options for public patients from the other non-government sectors.

It's all about magical thinking, keeping integration the heart of strategy to make universities, colleges and hospitals sustainable and offer significant benefits to local healthcare. Better infrastructure and improving quality of care and research and making public sector accountable on their commitment is crucial in this direction. Large scale strategic initiatives for joint planning by government and non-governmental sectors can efficiently and successfully build a dynamic model. Public private partnership (PPP) is one such model in

which government partners with private providers. Private sector includes for-profit organisations and corporations, not-for-profit non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charitable organisations. Such collaborations shall play a vital role in helping to overcome challenges in capital funding for building and equipment, development and expansion of hospital, colleges and the university for decades to come. A lot can be achieved with the support, passion and vision of donors. It is all about generating a steep change and achieving outcomes beyond those made possible with normal funding streams. To fulfil the purpose to contribute to society the philanthropists, donors, charities, collaborations and investments shall compliment the clinical workforce of our health university. Resources need to be mobilised to enhance health system capacity to ensure sustainability.

In context to budgetary constraints, association with the private sector will enable provision of clinical services for public patients on the short term. The contracting of support services such as radiology and diagnostic imaging, diagnostic laboratories, pharmacy, health records and similar non-clinical services to meet the huge demand of financing will be useful. With collaborations of non-profitable organisations we can develop health facilities such as emergency care centres and trauma centres can be made available to the population. Such collaborations will relieve pressure and lessen work burden on the government hospitals by decreasing waiting time, sharing of workload and improving quality of care. Partnership and collaborations for funding of knowledge creation shall also be developed. These collaborations can be transformative in spite of lots of impediments and challenges. A non-profitable organisation can play a complimentary role in preventive and curative care and to bring a change in health care systems. The decisions should not be based on what has been done in the past in health care but on what measures shall be maximally and efficiently contributing to deliver the best patient care possible. Such models can be successful with good coordination with government

agencies, developing a regulatory framework with legal base, ensuring transparency in process and strengthening of government policies.

To avoid commercial interests and negative impact and to define contingent appropriateness of a private sector, government should monitor the performance of these partnerships by appointing audit committees. It is crucial to agree on key principles to retain the core values of the healthcare plan to benefit the masses and safe guarding their rights and providing health care facilities at no profit no loss. A quote by Edmund Burke is important in this context: *"Society is a partnership in all science; a partnership in all art; a partnership in every virtue and in all perfection. As the ends of such a partnership cannot be obtained in many generations, it becomes a partnership not only between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are to be born."* It is such foresight that will enable our future generations to serve mankind through collaborative research and academic excellence to improve health of the population. A well known African proverb is: *"If you want to travel fast travel alone but if you want to go far travel together"*.

Looking into the future:

An enlightened vision shall aid in establishing an effective mechanism to implement a dedicated long term investment in core activities of a university- academics, research and appropriate health care. A coherent and sustainable plan addressing the healthcare needs of masses must be formulated and executed by designing newer ways to deliver healthcare. A constructive and collaborative approach to the area of public policy is a task to which all of us must rise. This allows maximum opportunities to add value to state economy and develop the health arena. The involvement of non-profit organisations who share common goals shall protect the on-going projects of government in health sector. This include collaborative activities for continuation of government programs and services including *Mukhyamantri Nishulk Dawa Yojna (MNDY)*, *Mukhyamantri Nishulk Jaanch Yojna (MNJY)*, *Janani*

Suraksha Yojna (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojna (JSSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Bhamashah Yojna and other national programmes undertaken by our state government and Government of India.

The long term goal of a university must be to build capacity to a point where the pupils are able to compete nationally and internationally and are academically sound. I wish that the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences rises to meet challenges and continue to demonstrate its commitment to excellence in all fields of health

sciences and becomes uniquely resilient. As the Vice Chancellor of this university I am confident that we shall continue to deliver high quality research and academic excellence and serve mankind by providing best health care facilities. I am passionate about the power of medical research to deliver life-changing benefits to the community. A journal is the best forum to share new research and ideas in the health sciences. When enthusiastic minds are at work ambitions are achieved globally. My best wishes to the Journal and to all associated with Rajasthan University of Health Sciences.