

Health Care in India

The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), an organization representing 41,250 Indian doctors in practice along with 10,000 medical students and residents in training in the United States. AAPI strives to promote advocacy for their members, conducts continuous medical education programs and through its AAPI Charitable Foundation conducts many philanthropic activities.

AAPI is committed to help improve Healthcare in India. Recently AAPI conducted major studies affecting the health of Indians in the United States and India. They have acquired experience in conducting health educational programs in the villages. AAPI members are eager and willing to participate in the various health care issues and offer their expertise. AAPI also has held multiple Continuing Education Courses in India over the past many years.

It maintains a very active web site for activities of the organization including health information for all Indians; it publishes a journal for its members and a newsletter. Politically, it has acquired a huge capital of respectability. AAPI is also involved in the various health care issues in the United States.

Health care activities in India are carried out through committees on India health Initiatives. The committees are working on AIDS, Blindness Prevention, Burns Care, Cancer Care and Research, Coronary artery disease, Diabetes Prevention and control, ACLS Courses, EMS, Trauma and Disaster Preparedness, Medical Education, Mental Health, Pediatric and Perinatal Care, Prevention of Chronic Diseases and Health Education and Rural health care.

The AAPI sponsored clinics are located in Jammu, Andhra Pradesh, Harayana, Karnataka, Punjab, Gujarat, Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Our goal is to have a clinic in each state. Thanks to on-site and outreach programs conducted by these clinics we served close to one million patients. In addition AAPI built five hospitals – 4 in Gujarat and one in Maharashtra. We are in a process to start much-needed mental health clinic in Nagapattanam, where Tsunami hit the hardest. In Sambalpur, Orissa, a zero infant mortality rate has been maintained for six consecutive years in a 20 village area.

AAPI was invited to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of India., during the 4th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in Hyderabad, India on Jan 7-9, 2006. The MOU calls for AAPI to provide know how in health care management and expertise to develop Primary health care module in rural setting. The two states will be chosen; one with a good infra structure and the other without. The projects will be in place for next four years.

AAPI also works through its 130 member organizations.. Each alumni organization has contributed to welfare of its own medical college and for the communities from where they came from. AAPI offers round the year educational programs for physicians.

Emphasis to have effective vaccines and drugs for curing and eliminating twenty diseases, which include HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, Japanese encephalitis, Hepatitis, Polio etc. A new initiative for finding more effective cure for TB was the need of the hour.

Health care in India is a complex issue muddled with inadequate funding, lack of political will, scarcity of medical personnel, equipment, supplies, lack of preventive measures, and sanitary conditions; but above all lack of awareness and education of public. Therefore it will need Universal, Comprehensive and Effective Health care measures which are affordable and achievable through implementation of evidence-based, proven, imaginative and innovative strategies to solve health care problems.

Respectfully submitted by
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