

Driving Health towards Comprehensive Care

Dr. Lakshmi C. Somatunga, Editor College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka

Comprehensive healthcare is healthcare which provides for all patient needs at all stages of life. Whether a person needs a routine physical examination for confirmation of a job, or a patient needs a complex emergency surgery, it is covered by a comprehensive system. The goal of comprehensive healthcare is aiming to keep people fit and healthy, and to encourage them to address medical needs as soon as they arise, rather than waiting for them to become serious.

By providing care at all stages of life and in all situations, comprehensive healthcare becomes an investment leading to create healthier nation productively engaged in country's development. This is a great commitment by the government and especially in a situation like Sri Lanka where a state-run health sector is in existence.

In this context, health administrators have a greater responsibility in driving their respective institutions irrespective of the level of care, reaching the goals of proving effective and safe delivery of health services. They need to spend significant amounts of time and place high value on problem solving, decision making, communication and collaboration with other disciplines in delivering comprehensive care.

In this journey of driving health towards comprehensive care, leaders in Healthcare face many challenges while attending to routine managerial functions, to drive their respective sector or institutions to deliver the

stipulated output in efficient manner ensuring quality. In order to drive health, a leader should be knowledgeable, updated and able to take decisions based on evidence. A good medical leader should be open to hearing and acting on different points of view. What is most important is transforming the problem solving mindset to creating a positive vision towards innovative approach.

This edition of the Journal of Sri Lanka College of Medical Administrators comprises articles describing different aspects of healthcare in an analytical and innovative way exploring comprehensiveness.