

Short communication

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY AND SHORTAGE OF RESOURCE IN HEALTHCARE

Shamima Parvin Lasker

Professor & Head

Department of Anatomy, City Dental College,

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Health is the basic human right. It is the moral obligation of the society to ensure everyone to access some level of health care service for living as a human life, functioning normally and pursuing many other values in life. Since 1980, contemporary health care has become sophisticated and expensive in order to exponential advance in diagnostic capabilities and related therapeutic possibilities. Due to the shortage of recourse, something is needed to plays a powerful role in political dialogue that may have moral and ethical value.

Traditionally, in medical model of disease, patients are usually not held responsibility for the genesis of their illness. When a person becomes ill, the medical judgment implies that he can not be blame for his condition. The treatment and care are appropriate and morally desirable for him. Western philosopher John Rawlsian said basic social justice is resulting from a social contract between the society and institutions in where the parties (people) come together to achieve the benefits. The parties are imagined as normal and fully cooperating members of society and possessing the two moral powers – capacity for a sense of justice and conception of the good. Norman Daniels shifts Rawls theory in health care. Health as a primary social good and people are normal and fully functioning individuals. Therefore, people should make significant contribution to protect the normal function by limiting attitude as much as possible. Moreover, human right to healthcare implies that the individual has obligation for healthy behavior and the restriction of unhealthy choice as an autonomous individual. In addition in a liberal society, individual are normally free to do as they choose. In this respect caring for health is not different from other dimension of personal life. But when the individual choices turn out badly and when individual remain uninfluenced by moral appeal of health education e.g. a drunk driver bear the costs of medical care that he needs after a car accident, a smoker have lung cancer, heart attack who is seriously over weight, alcohol and the liver disease, AIDS with unsaved sexual activity, skiing, top-class sports, and other hazardous activity etc., the legal and financial sections may be think of justification.

If an individual has a health problem he is causally responsible due to his unhealthy life style or the risky behavior in the past. Since the person himself is the cause of his present problem, he is also answerable for the consequence of his prior behavior. Retrospective concept of responsibility is therefore retrievable. This attempt may guide and change the individual's behavior for his future health and may reduce the

cost of healthcare. Research is needed to find out the relationship between major expenditure with certain pattern of behavior.

References:

Daniels, N. Justice, Health, and Healthcare. American Journal of Bioethics 2001; 1: 2–16.

Have HAMJ ten. Genetics and culture. Bioethics in uropean perspective, Netherlands. Kluwer Academic Publishers.2001.

Have HAMJ ten and Loughlin M. Responsibilities and rationalities: Should the patient be blamed? Healthcare Analysis 1994; 2(2):119-127.

Rawls, J. Political Liberalism. New York: Colombia University Press. 1996,

Yvonne Denier. Mind the gap! Three approaches to scarcity in health care. Med Health Care and Philos 2008; 11:73–87