

Hyderabad's LVPEI eyes equitable healthcare



Hyderabad: Top five to 10 per cent of the population can afford quality healthcare facilities in corporate hospitals while the rest invariably incur out of pocket expenditure to access such high quality medical services. Is it possible to come up with a model that encourages equitable access to quality healthcare facilities for all sections of society?

To create a sustainable model that can offer quality healthcare free of cost to needy patients in all disciplines, the Hyderabad-based LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) is partnering with several voluntary organisations, including well-known DHAN (Development of Humane Action) Foundation. The LVPEI has decided to launch two pilot projects, one each in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The aim of the two facilities will be to provide equitable healthcare to all, which means quality healthcare in all specialties to be made available for free to needy patients.

A similar model is already in place at LVPEI, where expensive high-end medical treatment in eye care for needy patients is given free of cost by following a cross-subsidised payment model.

On Tuesday, a think tank meeting comprising senior doctors, voluntary organisations and hospitals was held at LVPEI to discuss equitable access to healthcare.

"At LVPEI we have developed an ideal healthcare model and hopefully such systems can be extended to other fields of medicine," says Founder-Chair, LVPEI, Dr GN Rao.

The senior doctors pointed out that the key to equitable healthcare model is to ensure quality, which will attract even the top five to ten per cent of the population.

"We also get patients who can afford medical services outside the country. At the same time, we also have patients who can't pay for basic diagnostic tests. So, through the process of cross-subsidy, we manage to provide free treatment to poor. Quality care is must in our model," LVPEI officials said.

To further discuss and finalize the details to set up a facility, the group of NGOs and senior doctors will meet again in another three months.

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