



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (HQS.)

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Mutually Affiliated with the British & Nepal Medical Associations

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Press Release

“Apne padosi ko swastha rakho”: IMA urges community collaboration to combat diseases

A friendly neighborhood is a healthy neighborhood and residents must come together to prevent several infectious diseases.

New Delhi, Jan 29, 2017: IMA believes that caring for your neighbor is an important aspect of social living. Neighbors are the primary source of support if some medical emergency befalls. Strengthening these support systems and maintaining them can have a profound impact on the overall health outcomes of the society as a whole.

Padma Shri Awardee Dr. K.K Aggarwal, National President Indian Medical Association (IMA) and President Heart Care Foundation of India (HCFI) and Dr RN Tandon – Honorary Secretary General IMA in a joint statement said that, “Several infectious diseases are transferred silently across communities. If neighbors come together and work on a plan of action, majority of this burden can be lifted. For instance, dengue and malaria spread across a 50-meter radius and just maintaining the cleanliness in your own home is not enough towards disease prevention. This is where the importance of community hygiene and healthcare is crucial. If members of a community are proactive in taking actions like maintaining cleanliness of the surroundings, caring for the local senior citizens, taking care of ill neighbors and spreading awareness about social- health issue; then a true improvement in health standards can be expected.”

“Neighborhood participation and collaboration is of utmost importance. Many social health issues like mental health, child abuse and women’s health are closely linked to community perception. Such a perception can either hamper or promote good health outcomes, depending on whether a positive or negative approach is taken. As mentioned, the role of neighborhood collaboration is instrumental in controlling the vectors of diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria. Sentient members in the society can also take up awareness drives and educate others about core health issues”, added **Dr. Aggarwal**.

Considering the importance of clinical and community services for improving health, it is a valid logical idea to consider community collaboration as a core strategy for population health improvement and preventive strategies.

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About IMA: Indian Medical Association is the only representative, national voluntary organization of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large. It has its Headquarter in Delhi and State / Terr. Branches in 29 States and Union Territories. It has over 2, 53,000 doctors as its members through more than 1650 active local branches spread across the country.☐

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