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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Self Nominated Doctors: Irrational the practice; Headache the professionals; Harming the public; National the problem - The industry of Quackery.

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Abstract

Medical practice done by non-medical people in india and their propagation in medias, and also its implications are discussed in this article. Multidisciplinary approach is essential for eradicating the quackery industry.

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Introduction:-

Nothing is impossible in Indian law even if you endanger the life of the people; medical practice is not an exception. Every one of us might experience with quacks in medical practice either in good or bad situations. Quacks are untrained, often illiterates who have some experience with medical profession involved in medical practice for earning easy money. Even a medical personal from other branch of medicine those are practicing allopathic medicine to earn easy money[1,2,22]. In my childhood I had got severe ear pain in the middle of the night due to accumulation of wax and I was treated by a quack with injections and by removing my ear wax with some instruments. He relieved my symptoms afterwards I never met a qualified doctor for that problem. In our village we are calling him as "Doctor", although he is a doctor to us, he neither studied at high school or nor trained at medical school.

What makes nonmedical person to practicing medicine?

Money is the first reason; you can earn money without hard work and education. How long it takes to learn basic practicing skills and basic illnesses? Hardly in few hours of practice, you can learn basic medicines and minor procedures like giving injections, in a few days of time suturing minor wounds and doing minor surgical procedures. Most of them were worked as an assistant for a medical practitioner for some time. When the medical practitioner is busy, they are in the position to teach them for how to dress a wound and how to give injections; it is the basic foundation for them in quackery[2,3,24].

Non allopathic practitioners are promoted most often by the corporate hospitals and private hospitals, which require duty doctors with less salary for long working hours. These paramedical professionals were trained in a need based

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manner for a particular specialty of the hospital. When they moved out they will engage in quackery. Some hospitals are giving hands to quacks to get referral cases and supporting them by managing complications results from quackery and providing referral charges to them for cases referred by them[3,4,5,24].

Most of the quacks are in big villages by doing mobile practice and some of them are having established clinics with few beds for intravenous fluid administration and most of them were charging more than General practitioners(GP) nearby. This is one of the reasons why private practitioners avoid practice in remote areas. Some places allopathic Medical Practitioners were threatened and defamed by these quacks by various means to avoid competing practice[6,7].

Laws which govern the people are not so stringent. Even though the law is not directly permitting the quackery, but it does in its own holes. Less captive punishment promotes the quacks to encounter this medical profession as a lovely profession. Some verdicts about these quackery permits anybody can practice modern medicine and government also not bothering them. Most of the time association of quacks obvious with well known local body members and politicians makes it difficult to handle. Indian Medical Association (IMA) voices against about this quackery are often unheard, sometimes with the effort of government quacks were stopped their practice temporarily but resumes once actions against them withheld[7,18].

Government run Health Sub-centers (HSC) are rooting the quackery in some places. Village health nurses are selling the drugs and collecting money for intravenous fluids and injections, which was supplied by government for free of cost. These village health nurses are less monitored by their medical officers.

Media also promoting quackery indirectly by promoting advertisements from the quacks and traders. Websites claiming magic cure for chronic non-curable diseases are not monitored by the government. Magic remedies and common cold, fever remedy advertisements results in selling of medicine in small shops without any knowledge of medicine. Websites claiming cure for HIV/AIDS is also possible in India and promoting alternate treatment for chronic diseases including cancers by avoiding surgery and adverse effect of chemotherapy too. Why not we nominate them for Nobel Prize? Like people disseminating wrong information about sex and infertility in state wide channels with local language in the name of native medicine, who is claiming a website also making the situation worse. Media which is also promoting quackery in many ways by advertising and interviewing quacks[8-10,25,26]. Medical shops owned in India are not run by pharmacists, but with license of a pharmacist anybody can own the medical shop. Most of the time medical shops are managed by uneducated person and they provide medicines for all your problems including medical termination of pregnancy. Some of these shops are providing injection facilities and Intravenous (IV) fluid administration too in their back doors. Their irrational prescription of combination medications results in mild allergic reactions to fatal anaphylactic reactions. Very few are buying drugs with prescription in medical shops, most are telling their symptoms and collecting over the counter medicines, even well educated people are doing the same. The worst scenario is over the counter medication moved from medical shops to "Petty shops", you can buy medicines in all the petty shops along with cigarette and gutka. Even though doctor's ratio increased considerably, people are lazy to care their health by professionals but often by quacks. People less often understood the difference between quacks and doctors; they are calling everyone as a doctor, who are all practicing medicine. Government officials were often bribed by quacks, medical shops are less monitored and some of them are attached to or run by quacks. Some medical shops are offering weekly visit of quacks in the name of "visiting doctor" but the public is not aware that they are not real doctors, but so called 'quacks'[11-14,27,28]. Even though some GP's were suffered by quacks, the real sufferers are public at present. In our practice, every day we encounter these quack treated patients and self medicated patients with adverse drug reactions. We should create awareness to the public regarding harms of these short of quacks and self medication[15-17,29].

A Non Governmental Organization's plan of training quacks in rural areas or Indian Governments plan of short medical courses will not provide the real and permanent solution rather than creating new medical colleges and good facilities for training medical students[19-21].

Conclusion:-

Quacks are made by us for our convenience by forgetting the end result of condolences. It's the time to change ourselves from engaging and promoting quackery. Plan of training quacks and short medical courses to fulfill the gap of rural doctors is not the permanent solution. Any single approach is not going to change the situation; it should be a multidisciplinary approach by creating awareness to the public, enforcement of law and the involvement of government increasing quality medical colleges, verification in medical shops and private hospitals.

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