

Need for health education emphasised

By A Staff Reporter

The necessity of developing a meaningful programme for effective cancer health education was emphasised on the second day of the national workshop on prevention and control of cancer now being held at the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research on Tuesday.

Presided over by Prof. A. Quasem, Principal, Dacca Medical College, the seminar of the day was participated by Mr Md Moizuddin, Prof Md Khabiruddin, Dr Soong, Prof K M Nazrul Islam, Prof M A Quaderi, Prof Ali Ashraf, Prof SA Shakoor and Dr Mobarak Ali.

In his paper Mr Md Moizuddin, Health Education Officer, Government of Bangladesh stressed the need for comprehensive health education programme to make the people aware of the incidence of cancer and also tell them that it is a disease like any other disease and is also preventible. Slogans like 'stop smoking and prevent cancer' would be helpful, he said.

Mr Moizuddin observed that there was a general fear about cancer which tells upon the health and mind of the affected ones. He said instead of arousing fear a hopeful concern about immediate attention to suspected early cancer should be instilled. People must be made aware that early detection cures cancer, he said.

He, however, said that no pious objectives of cancer health education could be realised unless all the health, medical and related workers make their delivery services effective by warm approaches employing health education techniques and skills.

Referring to the health education activities in the country, Mr Moizuddin said that most of the time the activities are of publicity type. Organised community and school health education efforts were under embryonic stage of development. Similar is the fate of training and orientation programmes for health, medical and related workers. Survey, research and evaluation programmes were yet to see the light of the day.

Prof K M Nazrul Islam in his paper said that screening and early detection of cancer could

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go a long way in curing the disease.

UNDER ILLUSION

The allopaths on Tuesday pooh-poohed claims of non-allopaths that they had cured cancer as "sheer nonsense" because, they said, many of them did not even know what was cancer.

These allopaths who participated in second day's discussion of six-day long national workshop on prevention and control of cancer said in all probabilities these claimants, most of whom being homeopaths, did not at all cure a cancer case. They may be under illusion that they had done so, said an allopath.

The workshop which discussed health education on second day on Tuesday was not attended by any homeopath or any votary of other methods of medication.

Some of the allopaths in their critical appraisal regretted that some of these so-called physicians were being provided facilities of mass media like newspapers, radio and television to carry out their "propaganda". Such "propaganda is doing great harm" to the country as many people were being misguided by them, they asserted.

One of the speakers suggested that the "propaganda" carried out by the non-allopaths with respect to curing of incurable diseases should be prohibited. "The propagation of nonsensical ideas should not be allowed to go on," one of the speakers said.

It may be mentioned here that no person representing other recognised systems of medicine like homeopath, ayurvedic and hekimi was invited to participate in the national workshop.