

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Seasons Greetings

We are presenting new issue of BJKines-NJBAS with backdrop of lots of happening in field of Medicine.

Last three months there has been focus on preventive and social pediatrics, mainly on Immunization, Malnutrition and Rational use of Antibiotics.

Immunization is an important aspect of prevention of disease not only in children but also for adolescents and adults. With new and emerging infectious diseases, and our understanding of the prevailing infections vaccination takes a front seat in our health policy.

Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has announced the introduction of four new vaccines as part of India's Universal Immunization Programme and the decision of the Government of India was based on the recommendations of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization. India's UIP will now provide free vaccines against 13 life threatening diseases. Along with the recent introduction of the Pentavalent vaccine, 27 million children annually will now receive vaccines, the largest cohort in the world. There are new guidelines by IAP for immunization of children from 0 – 18 years.

Through the last few years more and more scientific data is available to us, leading to discussion on use of antibiotics and then rationale use now it is to avoid abuse of these antimicrobials. In fact for 2014 IAP (Indian Academy of Pediatrics) took the "Mission AAA" (Avoid Antibiotic Abuse) where in awareness was created on antimicrobial resistance and rational antibiotic practice. As a commitment to reduce antibiotic misuse, September 28 was observed as the Rational Antibiotic Day and the week thereafter, was declared as Antibiotic Awareness Week. There were activities at all levels involving media, society, practitioners, with poster and slogan competition, webinars, CME's, awareness programmes. The need of the hour is to involve the general public to join hands with the health professionals to curb antibiotic resistance.

There is an all round effort to reduce malnutrition and thereby to fulfill many Millennium Development Goal's. As per NFHS 3, there are 8.1 million under 5 affected by malnutrition.

One of the major contributors to under 5 mortality. The state government with various programs under NRHM is providing facility-based options of management of Severe Acute Malnutrition and its complications.

At village level: Village Child Nutrition Center (VCNC)

At PHC , CHC: Child Malnutrition Treatment Center (CMTC)

At districts, Medical Colleges: Nutritional Rehabilitation Center (NRC).

The children are provided nutrition management as per standard protocols, and the mothers are given understanding and hands on training for preparing nutritious food, importance of

hygiene, etc. These children are also followed up for till they reach target weight. Let us all contribute towards malnutrition free Gujarat.

I will end with a quote I can relate to as a pediatrician. Children are our future but their future is in what we can offer today.

“Many things we need can wait. The Child cannot.

Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made and his senses are being developed.

To him we cannot answer “Tomorrow”. His name is “Today”.”

- Gabriela Mistral -

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