Principles and Practice of Community Medicine

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This book is dedicated to my Students !

Foreword

It is my proud privilege to write foreword to the textbook entitled *Principles and Practice of Community Medicine*. Our country has definitely made significant progress in the field of health care delivery system during the past five decades. Yet one cannot deny that apportioning our limited resources amongst sectors providing primary, secondary and tertiary health care has been injudicious. The tertiary health care sector is unduly glorified; whereas the promotive, preventive and rehabilitative aspects of health care have not still been given due consideration. Our syllabus for medical students and training the students received were also in that line. However it is very much gratifying that Medical Council of India has perused the matter in the right perspective and made an attempt to rectify the defects. The objective of medical education spelt out in the "Regulation on Graduate Medical Education 1997" is a reflection of the current thinking of academicians in the field of medical education.

Any textbook on Community Medicine should take into due consideration the new trends in the medical education and should provide sufficient information on health scenario of our country, social and environmental factors influencing health and diseases and intervention programmes. This textbook – Principles and Practice of Community Medicine has succeeded largely in achieving these objectives. The layout of different chapters and the simplicity of the language are also appreciable. I have no hesitation in recommending this textbook as a "quick revision text" for Undergraduate and Postgraduate medical students and as a comprehensive textbook for nursing and paramedical students.

Dr. C. SADASIVANPILLAI

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Preface

It is being repeatedly stressed that Community Medicine is one of the most important branches of Medicine. Many undergraduates lament that this is a highly conceptual subject too difficult to assimilate and memorise. Most of the books currently available in this subject are too exhaustive and elaborate. A student often memorises the least important facts and leaves out the most important facts in the process. Elaborate concepts, poor application of the principles taught, frequently changing public health scenario, over and above poor teaching methods makes this subject most unpalatable to the Medical student.

As an Undergraduate Student I had yearned for a concise textbook presented in a lucid style in Community Medicine. Least did I know that Lord had kept in store for me a career in this field and would direct me into writing a textbook on this subject. The habit of jotting down important points in any subject I read, has helped me a lot in preparing this manuscript. I admit that a keen and critical reader may not find elaborate concepts in this textbook to rack his brains upon, but he is sure to find what is most required.

I have taken great care not to leave out important topics like General Epidemiology, Environment, Hospital Hygiene, Immunisation etc. which are often poorly dealt with in most of the currently available books. It is my sincere belief that all topics have been treated with equal importance.

The reader may find the presentation a little different as the key points are highlighted for holding readers immediate attention. This book is sure to serve as a quick reference during exams for the Medical students. It is my strong intuition that this book will be handy for allied medical disciplines like Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy and even Medical Officers from the Health services. I believe that I have been able to bring out the **'Essence of Community Medicine'** in this textbook.

Asma Rahim

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