

## EDITORIAL

### Way forward for elimination of Rabies deaths

India is one the signatories in the charter of World health Organisation (WHO) to accept the global challenge for elimination of rabies deaths by 2030.

We do have an about ten years' time from now to achieve the goal on "Zero rabies death by 2030". All the public health programmes in which we could achieve the goal, it's seen that the last few steps are more difficult and tiresome. This is also applicable for rabies also.

WHO described rabies as a neglected tropical diseases because there was no authentic information on its epidemiology and distribution as it was presumed that rabies mostly affects the poor, rural and downtrodden people. There was scarcity of diagnostic tools and effective immunization agents. Now things are going to improve as more and more scientific data are made available from different parts of the world.

As India contributing the highest number of dog bite cases and probably the rabies cases, our responsibility is automatically becomes bit more than others. Through organized efforts of some scientific organisations including APCRI, Government of India has declared a National rabies control programme. Now it becomes necessary for all of us to document dog bite cases of rabies and its death systematically.

So we have to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate each and every case of rabies and suspected cases from all corners of the country. To fulfil this dream the Government has to come forward to establish more and more centers where diagnosis of rabies will be certainly possible. We have started activities for capacity building of our fellow colleagues at all levels working in the field of community health. Now time has come to take the paramedics into confidence for proper use of intradermal rabies vaccines. Appropriate use of Rabies immunoglobulins has to be ensured by our medico colleagues across the country. As there is availability of monoclonal antibody, use of it should also be emphasized correctly among the doctors. All these require continuous, uninterrupted supply of vaccines and immunoglobulins at all the rabies treatment centers. Necessary changes in the policy of the Government have to be made to ensure these demands successfully.

For making our medical graduates and practitioners fully aware regarding the implications of rabies necessary amendments are necessary in our medical course and curriculum. That is the order of the day. For that the medical council of India, the universities and the medical colleges has to extend their cooperation and to act accordingly.

Everybody accepted that proper and scientific implementation of rabies control programme should have an effective component for its animal component. The highly praised "One health approach" could be of immense help towards achieving the goal.. The policies makers have to be motivated to develop lively inter sectoral coordination meaningfully.

If each one of us becomes more and more aware and remain vigilant towards the rabies, it's very much possible to achieve the goal of elimination.

All the tasks are to be taken care of by the sole and dedicated organization, the APCRI.

Let our members take a pledge in this line to help the country.

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