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Perspective Article

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Healing Healthcare: Ethical Innovations for Economic Prosperity and Patient Wellness

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Abstract

Healthcare systems worldwide face significant challenges due to structural issues, including administrative inefficiencies and ethical vulnerabilities such as corruption, nepotism, collusion, and discrimination. These systemic weaknesses not only undermine professional and ethical standards but also limit the adoption and implementation of innovative, evidence-based medical practices. Such barriers notably affect preventive and curative advancements, such as the Whole-Food Plant-Based Diet (WFPBD), which demonstrates significant potential in reversing chronic conditions, including atherosclerosis, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), obesity, hyperlipidaemia and hypertension.

Consequently, ethical erosion and compromised meritocracy contribute to decreased quality of care, increased misdiagnoses, and preventable morbidity and mortality, compelling patients to seek healthcare solutions internationally. This outward flow exacerbates economic challenges by draining national resources and weakening overall economic resilience.

In addressing these systemic issues, Bethsaida Hospital presents a notable example under the leadership of Prof. Dasaad Mulijono, advocating a transformative approach based on ethical integrity, empathy, transparency, and inclusive healthcare practices. The institution's integration of WFPBD with advanced therapeutic techniques, notably Drug-Coated Balloon (DCB) angioplasty, has resulted in substantial clinical achievements, including remarkably low restenosis rates (<2%), effective lipid management (LDL-C <30 mg/dL), drug-free normalization of blood pressure, and reversal of chronic kidney disease.

Moreover, Bethsaida Hospital's proactive and ethically driven response during the COVID-19 pandemic—successfully managing over 3,500 high-risk patients without mortality—highlights the efficacy of integrating ethical rigor with scientific innovation. This example underscores the transformative potential of healthcare systems founded on transparency, meritocracy, advanced technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), and comprehensive medical education.

Ultimately, sustainable reforms emphasizing integrity and evidence-based innovation are essential to restoring public trust, improving healthcare outcomes, and reinforcing the economic stability and resilience of nations for future generations.

Keywords: Corruption, Nepotism, Discrimination, Collusion, Healthcare Quality, WFPBD, Economic Impact, Holistic Care, Hippocratic Oath, Medical Ethics, Bethsaida Hospital, Prof. Dasaad Mulijono

1. Introduction

Healthcare systems ideally strive for equitable, empathetic, holistic, and responsible patient care. However, pervasive corruption, nepotism, collusion, and discrimination fundamentally obstruct these essential objectives, severely compromising healthcare quality and integrity [1-12]. When medical institutions prioritize favouritism and prejudice over meritocracy and ethical standards, patient trust deteriorates, and innovative interventions like WFPBD become neglected, despite their proven effectiveness in managing chronic diseases [13-45].

Such environments violate fundamental ethical principles and breach the Hippocratic Oath, emphasizing fraternity, equity, and compassionate care among healthcare providers. Discriminatory practices against physicians based on ethnicity, religion, or personal beliefs further exacerbate internal tensions, reducing professional cooperation and collaboration and ultimately diminishing patient outcomes. This systemic failure frequently results in increased medical errors, misdiagnoses, and mistreatments, driving patients to seek care abroad and significantly impacting the national economy [1,46-48].

Contrastingly, institutions like Bethsaida Hospital, led by Prof. Dasaad Mulijono, provide a compelling alternative model. Bethsaida exemplifies how adherence to holistic ethical principles, deeply rooted in compassion, transparency, and anti-discrimination, can transform medical care and significantly improve patient outcomes, setting a standard for modern medical practice.

2. Impact of Systemic Corruption and Discrimination

A corrupt and discriminatory healthcare environment significantly undermines its efficacy. Nepotism and collusion prevent competent professionals from advancing based on merit, resulting in a substandard workforce that is unable to meet the comprehensive needs of patients. These systemic biases discourage empathetic and holistic medical practices, preventing innovative programs like WFPBD from gaining the necessary traction. Consequently, patient care becomes superficial and symptom-focused rather than root-cause oriented, which increases the rates of misdiagnosis and mistreatment.

The economic consequences are equally severe. Increasingly dissatisfied patients are compelled to seek healthcare abroad, resulting in billions of dollars in lost economic revenue for the healthcare industry. Resources that could support local healthcare development instead flow overseas, amplifying economic strain and widening healthcare disparities domestically [49-52].

3. Bethsaida Hospital: A Model of Holistic Medical Care

Under the visionary leadership of Prof. Dasaad Mulijono, Bethsaida Hospital has emerged as a pioneering institution where modern medicine is harmonized with deeply rooted humanitarian values. The hospital's ethos is grounded in the active practice of **love, empathy, kindness, forgiveness, patience, and loyalty**—principles that permeate every level of care delivery. Firmly rejecting all forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation, Bethsaida enforces strict policies to uphold a culture of inclusivity, compassion, and ethical integrity. More than a ceremonial vow, the Hippocratic Oath is embedded into the hospital's daily operations, forming the bedrock of its institutional identity. This moral foundation has fostered the successful implementation of the hospital's groundbreaking WFPBD program, which addresses the multifactorial pathophysiology of coronary artery disease by targeting key metabolic and inflammatory pathways, ranging from obesity and insulin resistance to endothelial dysfunction and Western dietary

excess. Clinical outcomes at Bethsaida have been transformative, featuring sustainable reductions in body mass index, reversal of hypertension without medication, consistently low LDL-C levels below 30 mg/dL, normalization of renal function in patients with chronic kidney disease, and superior glycaemic control in those with T2DM. When integrated with DCB angioplasty, this approach has driven restenosis rates to unprecedentedly low levels (~2%). At the same time, imaging data reveal stabilization and regression of atherosclerotic plaques, challenging the conventional pharmacologic paradigm of chronic cardiovascular care [53-60].

Amid the global chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prof. Mulijono's commitment to these principles was most vividly demonstrated. While others withdrew, he courageously advanced to the front lines as early as February 2020, treating over 3,500 high-risk patients with a novel WFPBD-based intervention, achieving survival without a single fatality. Even when the Indonesian Doctors Association permitted physicians above 50 to self-isolate in May 2020, Prof. Mulijono, then 55, refused to abandon his patients, anchored by an unshakable belief in the sanctity of his calling and the divine protection of his faith. Ironically, those who once discriminated against him chose to retreat. At the same time, he stood resolute as a living testament to the transformative power of holistic medicine grounded in ethical courage, scientific innovation, and unwavering spiritual conviction [61-63].

4. Solutions and Recommendations

Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach:

1. Transparent and Meritocratic Systems:

o Implementing transparent recruitment and promotion systems based on merit, capability, and ethical standards.

2. Anti-discrimination Policies:

o Establishing robust anti-discrimination and anti-corruption regulations with clear, enforceable penalties to discourage unethical practices.

3. Ethical Training and Accountability:

o Reinforcing medical education with comprehensive ethics, empathy, and holistic patient care training.

o Regular audits and feedback mechanisms to ensure adherence to ethical standards.

4. Promotion of Evidence-based Innovations:

o Encouraging and incentivizing adoption of validated health programs like WFPBD through institutional support, training, and public education campaigns.

5. Utilization of Advanced AI and Robotic Technology:

o Leveraging AI and robotic technologies to ensure unbiased, meritocratic recruitment, interviewing, and examination selection processes.

o Establishing advisory and oversight collaboration with internationally recognized meritocratic healthcare systems such as those in the USA and Australia, to reinforce transparency, impartiality, and fairness.

5. Conclusion

Healthcare systems compromised by corruption, nepotism, collusion, and discrimination are not merely inefficient—they are ethically bankrupt and structurally unsustainable. Such systems betray the Hippocratic Oath, erode public trust, impair clinical outcomes, and contribute to significant economic leakage as patients seek inadequate care abroad for treatment. In contrast, Bethsaida Hospital is a living testament to what medicine can achieve when governed by moral clarity, meritocracy, and an unwavering commitment to holistic healing. Under the leadership of Prof. Dasaad Mulijono, Bethsaida has shown that transformative outcomes—once thought unattainable in conventional systems—are possible and replicable when ethical courage and evidence-based innovation are embraced.

The success of Bethsaida's WFPBD program, combined with advanced therapies like DCB angioplasty, proves that patient-centred, love-driven, and scientifically grounded care is the future of medicine. It is no longer acceptable for institutions to hide behind tradition or bureaucracy while lives are lost to preventable failures.

Urgent national reform is imperative. Governments, medical associations, and healthcare institutions must commit to dismantling systemic injustice and embracing transparent, AI-supported, meritocratic structures. Ethical integrity must be enforced, not encouraged, through policy, education, and oversight. By following models like Bethsaida, healthcare can return to its highest calling: to heal without bias, to serve with compassion, and to preserve life with excellence and equity.

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