



Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare

Doctors, be a part of the change!



What is the Alliance of Doctors For Ethical Healthcare (ADEH)?

The Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare is a pan Indian network of doctors, anchored by SATHI, Pune. It is an informal open network, comprising of medical practitioners who believe in ethical and rational practice of medicine, free from commercial influences. It is a platform for doctors who are distressed with the currently chaotic and unregulated nature of the private health sector in India and wish to voice their concerns about it.

Why was a need felt to create such a network?

While addressing the issues which plague the private medical sector in India, we realized that there are several 'voices of conscience' within a sea of commercialization, but they are scattered and lack the right platform to raise their concerns. Moreover, doctors engaged in rational ethical practice and deeply disturbed about the increasing malpractice and corruption in the medical sector, wish to make a difference but do not know how. Some of them have faced their struggles for survival, despite being qualified and competent, some have borne the direct brunt of 'resisting' the prevalent corruption.

This network emerged out of the crucial need to unite all medical professionals, who are waging their own wars against the deteriorating standards of this noble profession, to create a pressure group that can lobby the government to implement much needed reforms in health policies.

How did the network emerge?

SATHI has focused on the private health sector in the course of its work on health rights in various ways. Dr Arun Gadre wrote a book called 'Kaifiyat' in Marathi, for which he interviewed 78 private practitioners across the country. This book effectively documents

the degeneration of ethics and nobility in the medical profession and the challenges faced by doctors who practice rationally and ethically.

An extended English version of the Marathi book soon followed, titled 'Dissenting Diagnosis' which was co-authored by Dr Arun Gadre and Dr Abhay Shukla and published by Penguin in May 2016. A national bestseller, the book provoked much debate and discussion on the state of the private health sector in India. It emphasized the need to promote ethical and rational health care and galvanized the process of formation of this network. Several practicing doctors from across the country, from Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), Medico Friends Circle (MFC), Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) and Indian Doctors for Peace & Development (IDPD) came together to form the Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) which is a national network of doctors committed to promoting ethical and rational health care, free from corruption.

How does the ADEH function?

ADEH conducts regular regional meetings with doctors across India where speakers discuss current health policy issues, the need for systemic reforms that will ensure accountability and transparency in the private medical sector.

ADEH reaches out to medical students and young medical professionals and engages with them on issues such as violence against professionals, impact of corporatization of healthcare on the nature of medical practice and the advantages of Universal Health Care for doctors.

By involving doctors in a dialogue on health system reform and universal health care, we aim to create consensus and demand for

long term comprehensive solutions for making workplaces safer for health care providers and increasing patient satisfaction with hospital and doctor interactions.

ADEH undertakes discussions in person on contentious issues through meetings wherever possible, but most of the matters are discussed online. Core team members meet once a year to decide on the direction and focus of ADEH. We also publish an e-newsletter, highlighting our activities and future plans.

The ADEH stands for

- 1) Checking corporatization of Health care.
- 2) Regulation and rationalization of fee structure in private medical colleges.
- 3) Regulation of Pharma industry, equipment industry and consumables. (Stents etc)
- 4) Solving the practical problems of rational doctors – like high handed implementation of PCPNDT in which many honest doctors have suffered.
- 5) Capping the amount of compensation in medico legal cases.
- 6) Honoring patients' rights and transparency regarding charges in hospitals.
- 7) Following Standard Treatment Guidelines prepared by relevant organizations in India with due consideration for local constraints.
- 8) Bringing in a Clinical Establishment Act that protects ethical and rational medical practice and doesn't create unnecessary red tape for medical practitioners.
- 9) Constitution of the newly formed National Medical Council on democratic lines, and bringing Corporate Hospitals under the purview of the NMC.



ADEH contribution to health policy dialogue in India:

- Supported Adv Birendra Sangwan for capping of cardiac stent prices.
- Invited by the Joint Parliamentary committee for submission of demands related to National Health Commission.
- Supported Niti Aayog for capping trade margins in medical devices to 30%.
- Opposed the irrational ban on Oxytocin.
- Organized the First National Conference on Ethical Healthcare at AIIMS, New Delhi in April 2018
- Participated in a workshop organized by Competition Commission of India (CCI) with Niti Aayog to discuss business models in private healthcare.
- Launched the 'Ethical Doctor's Manifesto' prior to National elections in December 2018.
- Organised National workshop on Ethical Healthcare for young medical students and professionals in Pune in August 2019.

Our mission

To advocate and push for systemic reforms in Health policy for accountability and regulation of the private health sector and free it of commercial influences. ADEH members voice their demands for health reforms by writing books, op ed and analytical articles on health policy in prominent newspapers, journals and other media.

To create awareness within the medical fraternity for a system of Universal Health Care in India like the one existing in UK, Canada and Thailand, wherein healthcare services are free at point of delivery and accessible to all. Such a system would ensure that doctor-patient relations would not be based on market logic.

Core team of ADEH

- **Dr G. S. Grewal**- Former President- Punjab Medical Council
- **Dr Samiran Nundy**- Gastrointestinal surgeon, medical academic, writer & former head of department of GI surgery at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- **Dr Arun Mitra**- Indian Doctors for Peace and Development
- **Dr Monica Thomas** - Neurologist, Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi
- **Dr K. V. Babu**- Health activist, Kerala
- **Dr Arun Gadre & Dr Abhay Shukla**- public health activists and authors of the book: 'Dissenting Diagnosis'
- **Dr Sanjay Nagral**- GI surgeon, Jaslok hospital, Mumbai and associated with Indian Journal for Medical Ethics
- **Dr Sanjib Mukhopadhyay**- Gynecologist, Kolkata
- **Dr Shakeel ur Rahman**- The Centre for Health And Resource Management-CHARM, Bihar
- **Dr Puneet Bedi**- Gynecologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi
- **Dr Mussadik Mirajkar**- General Surgeon, Mumbai
- **Dr Sanjay Bhalerao**- Pediatrician, Indore & National Collaborator Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- **Dr Saiju Hameed**- Vice chairman, Social Health One Health, Executive member, Ethical Medical Forum, Kerala
- **Dr Amol Annadate**- Pediatrician, MD Anand Charitable Trust, Vijapur

Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare:

- Become a member by signing up on our website: www.ethicaldoctors.org. Membership is free of cost
- Email us at ethicaldoctorsindia@gmail.com
- Follow our Facebook page Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare – ADEH
- ADEH secretariat: SATHI, Pune

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