



# Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare



## What is ADEH?

The Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare is a pan Indian network of doctors, anchored by SATHI, Pune. It is an open network, comprising mostly of medical practitioners who believe in ethical and rational practice, and are distressed with the currently chaotic, and unregulated nature of the private health sector in India.

## Why was a need felt to create such a network?

While addressing the issues which plague the private medical sector in India, it was realised that there are several 'voices of conscience' within the sea of commercialisation, but they are scattered and do not have a platform to raise their issues. Moreover, the doctors who themselves practice in a rational and ethical manner and are agitated about the increasing malpractices, want to make a difference but do not know how. Some of them have faced their own survival struggles, despite being qualified and competent, some having borne the direct brunt of 'resisting' the prevalent (mal)practices. It was crucial to bring together all these doctors, who were waging their own wars against the monstrous face their profession had taken. This is how the idea of this network emerged.

## How did the network emerge?

SATHI has been engaging with the private health sector in the course of its work on health rights, in various ways. A book called 'Kaifiyat' was written by Dr. Arun Gadre, in Marathi, for which he interviewed 78 private practitioners across the country, most of whom were known to him, or referred by those known to him. This book effectively documents the degeneration of ethics and nobility in the medical profession, and the trouble faced by those who practice rationally and ethically. This was soon followed by an extended English version, named 'Dissenting Diagnosis' which was co-authored by Dr. Arun Gadre and Dr. Abhay Shukla (both from SATHI). This book was published by Penguin in May 2016, and it was very well received by people at large and a section of

the Medical fraternity. It emphasised the need to promote ethical and rational health care and galvanised the process of formation of this network. Several practising doctors from across the country and doctors 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 Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) which is a national network of doctors committed to promoting ethical and rational health care.

## Core team of ADEH:

Dr G. S. Grewal (Former President- Punjab Medical Council), Dr Samiran Nundy (Gastrointestinal surgeon, medical academic, writer and the former head of the department of Gastrointestinal surgery at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi), Dr Arun Mitra (Former Chairperson, Ethics Committee, Punjab Medical Council), Dr K.V. Babu (Activist from Kerala), Dr Arun Gadre and Dr Abhay Shukla (Authors of the book published by Penguin: 'Dissenting Diagnosis'), Dr Sanjay Nagral (Gastrointestinal surgeon, 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 Mussadik Mirajkar (General surgeon, Mumbai).

## What does ADEH stand for? Our core values

With the germination of the idea for a network, a need was felt to create a common ground for all these doctors from various parts of the country practising in a range of settings. Hence, an appeal was created which defined the core values for the network. This is the appeal which is sent to all new members who express interest, and when they endorse it, their name is added in the list of signatories and they become members of the network.

## Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare

We want to bring back – the healthy and harmonious relationship between doctors and patients.

We have a dream

To bring Universal Health Care in India like that in UK/ Canada/ Thailand a system wherein private-practitioners would be paid from public fund on the principle of 'standard payment for standard care' and hence doctor-patient relations would not be based on the market-logic.

We are 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) Honouring patients' rights, transparency regarding charges and readiness to give enough time to patients and answer their queries.
- 7) Following standard treatment guidelines prepared by organizations in India with due consideration for local constraints.
- 8) Bringing in Clinical establishment act that would protect honest and ethical doctors and would not bring in corrupt Baburaj.
- 9) Reconstitution of Medical Council of India on democratic lines, and bringing Corporate Hospitals under the control of MCI.

## How does ADEH propose to function?

A dedicated e-mail id [ethicaldoctorsindia@gmail.com](mailto:ethicaldoctorsindia@gmail.com) is used for communicating within the members of the network. Besides, regional meetings have been conducted in the initial period of formation of the network. An interactive website [www.ethicaldoctors.org](http://www.ethicaldoctors.org) is in the pipeline, which will lead to increased interface between members. ADEH undertakes physical discussions on contentious issues through meetings where possible, but most of the matters get discussed online. The dedicated e-mail id is used for flagging and discussing issues which concern the group.

## How does ADEH reach out to policymakers?

Usually, any important issue on which ADEH should intervene gets discussed online and a member of the core group consolidates the discussions and creates a draft- letter/Press Release/Memorandum, which once approved gets circulated to the Media/ Government/ appropriate authority. For example following few petitions were discussed first broadly, later within the core group and then sent to the policy makers. Whenever required a delegation from the ADEH meets the policy makers.

Title	Issue addressed	The policy maker addressed to
92nd Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare suggested complete overhauling of MCI	Reforms and restructuring of Medical Council of India	The panel members of the High Powered Committee for Overhauling Functioning of MCI Justice Shri Lodha, Chairperson, MCI Oversight Committee Additional Director, (Q&P) Lok Sabha Secretariat Room No. 155, Parliament House Annexe. Hon. Mr. Mishra Principal secretary to PM
Gaps and disturbing recommendation in draft bill and report by Niti Ayog regarding National Medical Commission (NMC)	Petition to Niti Ayog on NMC Bill and Report	The panel members of the High Powered Committee for Overhauling Functioning of MCI Mr. Alok Kumar, Niti Ayog
National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has invited stakeholders for consultation regarding the capping prices of coronary stents under Drug Price Control Order	Fixing ceiling prices of Coronary Stents	Shri Bhupendra Singh Chairperson, NPPA New Delhi

