

## **Patient's Rights: A New Beginning In Pune**

Indian citizens are disappointed by dismal performance of public health system, but all is not well with private health sector too. There is a lot of discontent in people about private health care system. We must have noticed a recent surge in violence against doctors. One of the reasons behind this phenomenon is lack of dialogue between doctors and patients. We also come across instances of undignified behaviour with patients and their relatives by hospital management. There is need to improve doctor-patient dialogue, also need to observe patient's rights in hospitals. Keeping this in mind, some citizens from Pune organized a meeting on 28th of March 2009 at Lokayat, Pune.

Participants discussed a range of issues like lack of doctor-patient dialogue, growing violence against doctors, violation of patient's rights, commercialization of and unwarranted tendencies in medical profession. Participants came to consensus that in order to counter this, there should be awareness about patient's rights. At the same time, there is need to improve doctor-patient relationship through increased dialogue. Draft rules under Bombay Nursing Home Registration (Amended) Act, 2005 contain patient's rights. But it's approval and subsequent implementation depends upon citizen's alertness. Hence to germinate the concept of patient's rights, we should organize 'Patients Rights Council' in the city of Pune and should strive to reach maximum number of citizens. There was an understanding that media can play every effective role in this process. Along with creating awareness, it was decided, to reach out to intelligentsia in Pune who commands some social standing and form city level Patient's Rights Protection committee with their participation. This committee will hold talks with various doctors, hospital management to put forward citizen's expectations from hospital management and by mutual consensus, start some good precedents in hospitals.

Dr.Anant Phadke, Dr.Abhay Shukla, Dr.Nilangi Sardeshpande, Dr.Abhijit More, Anupama Pathak (all from 'Jan Arogya Abhiyan'); Shri.Soman, Shri.Guttikar from 'Lok Vigyan Sanghatana'; noted cartoonist Shri.Mangesh Tendulkar, Advocate Jaya Sagade, Dr.Vinay Kulkarni from 'Prayas'; Shri.Magesh Ramadoss; Shri.Dwijen, Sonali Palkar from 'aarogya.com'; Neha Kagal from 'Kagad,Kach ,Patra Sanghatana' took part in discussion.

Next meeting would be on 9th of May, 2009.Citizens from Pune are cordially requested to come and participate in this campaign.

Meeting Venue: Lokayat, Ground floor-Lenova Building,

In front of 'Syndicate Bank', Law College Road,

Near Nal Stop, Pune.

Time- 3 pm to 6 pm