

Housewives Can Help

By

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HOUSEWIVES can help the sick, lonely people at the Community hospitals.

In Western countries the housewives even those who are financially well established) lend their extra pair of hands to their community, churches, hospitals, schools and clinics as volunteers.

The hospital I work in Canada is supported widely by the housewives; their organisation not only helps us physically, but also financially.

In India too many housewives can lend their hands to the hospitals as volunteers, especially those who do not have extra burden to support the family, those housewives do have some leisure time at home and those who want to help others.

As a nurse I have experienced many unhappy situations in the hospitals in India, mainly for want of sufficient nurses in the wards. The common picture of most hospitals in India are full of tragedy and it is a dramatic experience for any one who had been to a hospital as a patient. At many hospitals in India, you may find, very frequently patients lying in bed with lonely faces, the children look for someone to play with them, the patients with impaired vision count the time to end another day, the patients, those unable to feed themselves, wait for a nurse to feed until some flies had a chance to share the same food. The babies in nursery scream without love and proper care.

Practically there is no comparison between the life at hospital and life at home. No one could ever think the situation the nurses have to face in India. But I often ask myself who are the sick people? Aren't they belonging to us?

To me, all human beings have to suffer and endure suffering. This is due to our difficulty in relation to nature, particularly in relation to other living things and especially to other human beings. As with the patients, individuals can live only if they are helped by others and others are helped by them.

To help those sick at hospitals, one does not require a professional hand but an extra pair of hands with love and understanding. Anyone can help to feed a patient or to remove his loneliness. Someone can sit beside a patient and exchange some interesting topic, read a book or play card. To meet the needs of the children, you can organise a children's game or tell them a fairy tale which will be more amusement for them. In nurseries, anyone who is in good health can help the nurses to feed the babies or just by holding them with love.

Of course, you may hesitate to do so as you are still leading a traditional life, could not think of sharing your hands with the people from the low social-economic group whether they are hospital's personnel or patients. In India, it is supposed to be below your dignity. Social prestige cripple your mind, prevent you from intermingling with others.

Helping others with your good-will is a service to mankind, it helps an individual to self-accomplishment, to understand others, to accept and to share each others' interests.

There is a great need for help in Indian hospitals. I wonder, what's keeping us behind. Today Indian girls educate themselves, seek jobs, challenge others in every field until they get married. Marriage is the end of her play as an individual. She thinks only for her family. She is happy to lock herself at home except for a few of her own needs. She dreams for her own family. So a housewife's responsibility does not exceed beyond the home into the community.

Yet, when someone in her family is hospitalised she is not satisfied with the care. She complains, holds anger and bitterness against the nurses and the hospital as a whole. This is not news to any one of us. Still nobody bothers to improve the situations in hospitals as there are many nursing homes for them. They can hire a private nurse to take care of them, the doctors are always beside them. Who cares about the hospitals which are meant for the common man.

I believe the housewives in India can invest themselves to their community programme. Such efforts will improve inter-personal relationship among the hospitals, public and the members of the hospital staff towards a happy family-centered care and secure life.

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R. Chacko, Singapore	Rs. 200/-
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