

Patient rights implementation in health facilities in Karnataka, India

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Propositions

- The governance architecture for realizing patient rights in health care settings should ideally be premised upon the notions of human rights and human dignity. But in the context of health systems in the neoliberalist era, in Karnataka, a southern state in India, patient rights narratives in policies and practices are predominantly embedded within the logic of quality of care, economic, and consumerist perspectives.
- In Karnataka, the medical profession and the State bureaucracy deployed an array of practices to gain and maintain power over the governing processes and outcomes of grievance redressal systems for patient rights violations in health facilities. Collective efforts of care-seeking individuals will need to apply creativity and perseverance to subvert the unjust governing practices in the formal grievance redressal systems.
- Medical power is offended by the contribution of non-medical actors in the governance processes of grievance redressal for patient rights violations. But inclusion and meaningful dialogue with non-medical actors are essential to develop patient rights-oriented just health systems.
- The medical and bureaucratic hegemony should be considered as problems for the oppression and dehumanization of health care seeking individuals. The objective of exposing the dehumanizing effects of medical and bureaucratic power is to claim democracy and justice within the governance spaces at all levels for patient rights implementation.
- Addressing medical power of all forms is critical for enabling health governance reforms especially in India.
- The incessant struggle to accomplish health governance reforms is fundamentally a struggle to claim and reclaim humanity and human dignity.
- Health systems are humanized by infusing values such as democracy, equity, justice, and community empowerment.
- Research partnerships with social movements on patient rights are an expression of scholarly activism and evidence-informed policy advocacy for patient rights protection.
- Doing a rigorous qualitative research project is equivalent to practicing meditation as it demands continuous reflexive engagement throughout the process.
- Never regret the time used for self-care. Through self-care, you become a less dangerous (socio-political) being to your family, friends, colleagues, and to the society at large.