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Covid-19; an opportunity for re-adjusting health systems**Hend Aly Sabry and Laila Kamel***Cairo University School of Medicine, Egypt*

COVID-19 is an emerging health and socioeconomic problem. Since the confirmation of the first case in February, 2020, and after reaching an epidemic there was political support to the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) as the control of COVID-19 needs an inter-sectoral approach. Regulations outside the health sector started very strict; and were gradually adapted to the requirements. Health interventions are related to preventive and curative care. Egypt has a pluralistic health care system but, MOHP acts as the safety net at the time of the epidemic. It prepared protocols for case verification and tracing of contacts; in addition to treatment and discharge protocols for case management which were communicated through social media. Initially MOHP intended to treat all cases at fever hospitals which could not cope with the very high load. Then, most of the hospitals turned to care for COVID cases only. Except for emergencies, patients suffered from lack of service. Cases-if not so severe- were turned back to be treated and followed at home after being given the drugs according to the protocol of treatment. MOHP tried to deploy its health workforce. It allocated a hot line to respond to questions. The experience gained from dealing with COVID-19 epidemic would guide policy makers to identify best practice and develop emergency preparedness and response. The paper will discuss specific policies to achieve universal health coverage with equity and quality, to be prepared to handle health and social risks and be prepared for any emergency in the future.

Biography

Hend Aly Sabry has completed her MD at the age of 36 years from Cairo University and postdoctoral studies from Cairo University School of Medicine also. She works as an Associate Professor at Public health & Community department – Kasr al-ainy school of medicine, a prestigious academic & healthcare institution in Egypt. She has published more than 10 papers in reputed journals and some others are still in the pipe. She has been serving as a reviewer of repute.

hendalysabry@yahoo.com