Public Health Dimensions of the World Drug Problem

Achieving Balance and Equitable Access to Pain Relief and Palliative Care

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Figure 1: Distributed opioid morphine-equivalent (morphine in mg/patient in need of palliative care, average 2010–13), and estimated percentage of need for the health conditions most associated with serious health-related suffering.

75% of the world remain without access to proper pain relief treatment.

Asia’s morphine per capita consumption

36x less than the global average

Global average: 61.5mg per capita

Asia: 1.7mg
Principle of Balance

Prevention of diversion for illicit use

Availability for medical and scientific purposes

PUBLIC HEALTH
CONSUMPTION OF MORPHINE IN INDIA after the introduction of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985

- 1985: 716 kgs
- 1997: 18 kgs
“IF YOU’RE NOT AT THE TABLE, YOU’RE ON THE MENU.”

MICHAEL ENZI
Principle of Balance

Harm Vs Value

Restrictive Vs Enabling

CONTROL

ACCESS

BALANCE

Patient-centric approach

Focus on suffering of individual and families

Focus on SAFE access through high quality data on opioid use outcomes

Focus on partnership between government, professionals and civil society
Spent most of 3 weeks in this position, in pain.
Rs.3/-
(<5 Cents US)
worth of opioid medicines later:

Was able to sit up and have a cup of tea