

Eradicating Malaria: Love doesn't cure this, Pity doesn't stop this... Right action, Vaccination and medication alone can do this...

Africa is the single continent with the maximum occurrence of malaria and it is a sobering fact that most of the victims of malaria don't even know that there is a cure to this insect bite. Statistics say that someone in Africa dies of malaria every thirty seconds. I'm not here to quote you statistics. Everyone knows the million lives dead and gone because of this disease. I'm not here to express my pity and concern over the lives lost. I'm rather here to show you how deplorable it is that lives are lost not because of the anopheles mosquito but because of sheer ignorance and lack of knowledge to available remedies.

The title of this article says it all. It's not love or pity, nothing wrong in expressing emotions, but it's not love or pity. It is right action. It is right medication. And I'm here to assert only this; use your love and pity as a driving force of action. There'll be fewer people mourning in Africa. I was running through the works of many other writers on malaria as I was preparing to write my views and I came across some questioning whether it is possible to eliminate malaria or stating the costs. Well, yes we need cost effective methods but is it so that if there is no definite cure, you will just sit down and mourn over the dying? I don't know. You tell me. Lucky for us, there are definite solutions for malaria.

Malarial vaccinations have always faced quizzical expressions. But, the occurrence of malaria post vaccination is in decimals. An effective vaccine is a powerful weapon against malaria. There are a number of vaccines that prove useful. Unfortunately some contend that the most successful medications are the higher up on the price ladder. Now, I can't argue with that. Unless governments make effort and seek to subsidise, the poor will keep dying. But it has been the continuous efforts of a number of social organisations and initiatives by the governments of African countries to provide free medical aid and vaccinations to children. As long as people aren't aware of this remedy, they won't look for it. And as long as they don't look for it, they will never find it.

Artemisinin is the main source of all medications related to malaria. This product is without doubt a hard to reach and expensive. Medical researchers are in the process of finding alternatives to ACTs. Meanwhile, it is financed for many across the continent. Again, a more

simple way of preventing malaria is creating hygienic environments. Though governments make efforts to sanitise residential areas, it is far more important to teach the residents what to do. Insecticide treated bed nets and indoor residual spraying can prove life saving, if you just knew.

What is the right action? Above all, awareness is the key. Other than that, vaccinating young ones, rapid diagnostic tests, and subsidised access to ACTs through the government aided programs and other social initiatives are presently available. Moreover, hygiene is possible only through concerted efforts of all. No single entity can be blamed for the prevalence of malaria. Before you point fingers, ensure you're doing your part. Hence, I write.