

DIABETES CONTROL AND PREVENTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Diabetes control and prevention in developing countries poses several major problems.

The success of any such programme requires an appreciation of the problem, political will to allocate necessary resources, administrative capabilities to plan, institute and supervise, an efficient health care system, and adequate manpower and supportive facilities. Diabetes education at all levels is the most important and essential aspect of diabetes care.

A National Diabetes Centre was established in 1984 to control the increasing incidence of diabetes in the country by promoting and integrating diabetes care. The Centre has developed and conducts regular week long national training courses for health care professionals. The major emphasis is on socio-economic consequences and practical and public health aspects of the condition. An appropriate patient education programme has also been developed. Regular use is made of the mass media and printed materials including newsletter to increase diabetes awareness in the community.