



medical methods, local 'quacks' who have the trust of the community must be roped in to contribute in some way. Like the midwives who are now trained by the government, these can have a role to play.

Then we have the major embarrassments: leprosy and tuberculosis still carry stigma. A patient is considered untouchable. The disease is considered a punishment for some 'paap' (sin) committed in a past life. The person is expected to suffer to 'erase' it, to atone for whatever crime he'd committed in another life. They are also considered to be income-related ailments: only the poor get them, the rich hide their distress well. Distribution of free medicines doesn't rid the community of beliefs. Observing people recover, spreading the word of their recovery, getting moral reinforcement from mothers-in-law and other elders of the village/family... that is important. Again, no public health program includes them.

In old civilizations that are today impoverished, a sense of honour, a clinging to tradition is important. To shake it, to challenge it, results in defiance.