Sri Lanka: an example of model healthcare

Sri Lanka, popularly perceived through the contrasting images of a bitter civil war or a beautiful tourist destination, presents yet a third image - an exemplar of how to achieve good health at a low cost. Dr Jones’ presentation will analyse the Sri Lankan experience of primary health care from the late colonial period to the Alma–Ata declaration, uncovering how this accolade was achieved and the questions it raises.

Sri Lanka’s good model of selective primary health care, available through the government health system, formed a sound basis for providing universal health coverage. It is now questionable whether the system will continue to provide affordable care to address the increasing burden of chronic diseases. Dr Perera will discuss the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health’s investigation of how the existing primary health, structure together with specialist services, can be reformed to provide universal health access and maintain a safety net for healthcare.

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