STIGMA FOR DENVAXIA VACCINE

by:
Jean C. Cruz
Orani National High School Parang - Parang

A widespread of national protest hounded the Department of Health (DOH) after vaccinating 830,000 schoolchildren by the world’s first dengue vaccine to cure dengue, a potentially life-threatening tropical mosquito that infects 700 million per year became a huge fiasco after it was administered to different regions in the Philippines and stopped when Sanofi Pasteur, the manufacturer of the Dengvaxia cure said that it can have possible threat if the drug is administered to a person who are not previously infected with the dengue or called “seronegatives.” The safety advocates, politicians and civil group in the Philippines accused Sanofi and former DOH officials of “genocide.”

Upon hearing this, the severe damage that had come so far in the investigation of the vaccine is the sufferings and depletion of health programs because of unnecessary panic. After the matter had followed, lots of parents lose their public trust and confidence to send their children to places which gives immunity vaccine and thus, causing a big blow of stigma created by the Dengvaxia vaccine. It also creates a huge inflation to the possible health rate of the children because even the vaccines that are proven to be effective, safe and in fact, said to be all successful in preventing diseases such as polio, measles, tetanus, tuberculosis, 5N1 and among other vaccines over the years were stopped circulating after the issue had occurred. Yet, professional doctors still urged the parents to take vaccine and not to self-medicate their families on their own homes despite of having the Dengvaxia scare.

However, according to Karen Frances Eng (2018) the statistics found it was safe. Since dengue can cause drop count of blood and can really be life-threatening, Dengvaxia
is designed to protect against severe infections by inoculating the patient. Dengvaxia, is a vaccine that may guard vulnerable people around the world. It can help us lessen the number of cases of death and severe problems that may occur as the infection worsens. In case of the Philippines, being a tropical country, we are more prone to these viruses such as Dengue.

Therefore, health practitioners, advocates, and media who are the catalyst of information must do a better job to communicate for the betterment of all people and the whole society at large by informing the individuals most likely the parents to guide them learn about the benefits and the possible risks of the vaccine. And, with the best intention of the government officials to serve their fellowmen having an altruistic desire to contribute for the betterment of the next generation, perfect information and precise evidences will be a great help to avoid stigma to happen again.

References:
http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1024649