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EBOLA VIRUS

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While the dengue fever epidemic is still in the news and print media, Ebola virus disease is now making the news all around the world. While diseases have no respect for international boundaries Ebola too has emerged out of West Africa and the whole world is now on red alert. It is a highly contagious disease with first epidemic reported in 1976[1].and than in 1979[2]. Previous epidemics were small scale and controlled easily. However the magnitude of the current epidemic has been extra ordinary. Till date more than 9216 suspected and 4555 conformed deaths[3] have been repeated from different countries of West Africa. Frequent traveling to western countries and United State have compelled them to develop quarantine and adopt strict precautionary measures to limit the spread of deadly disease.

The problem faced by developing countries in combating diseases and the fact that only small budgets are allocated for health sector which is primarily utilized for the curative services. The preventive services are provided with poor funding and is also not utilized properly. The need of hour is to consider environment as a major control and to embark upon a major plan of providing a clean healthy environment to the public. Unless this aim is achieved many environmental and Zoonotic disease will spread rapidly across the neighboring countries. A detailed review article on Ebola virus disease has been include in the current issue of JSMC to give an updated information on this topic of current importance. The policy makers are urged to make environmental health as top priority.

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3. Who: ebola response roadmap update-17 october 2014.

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