

# Right to Health & St. Martha's Hospital

St. Martha's Hospital

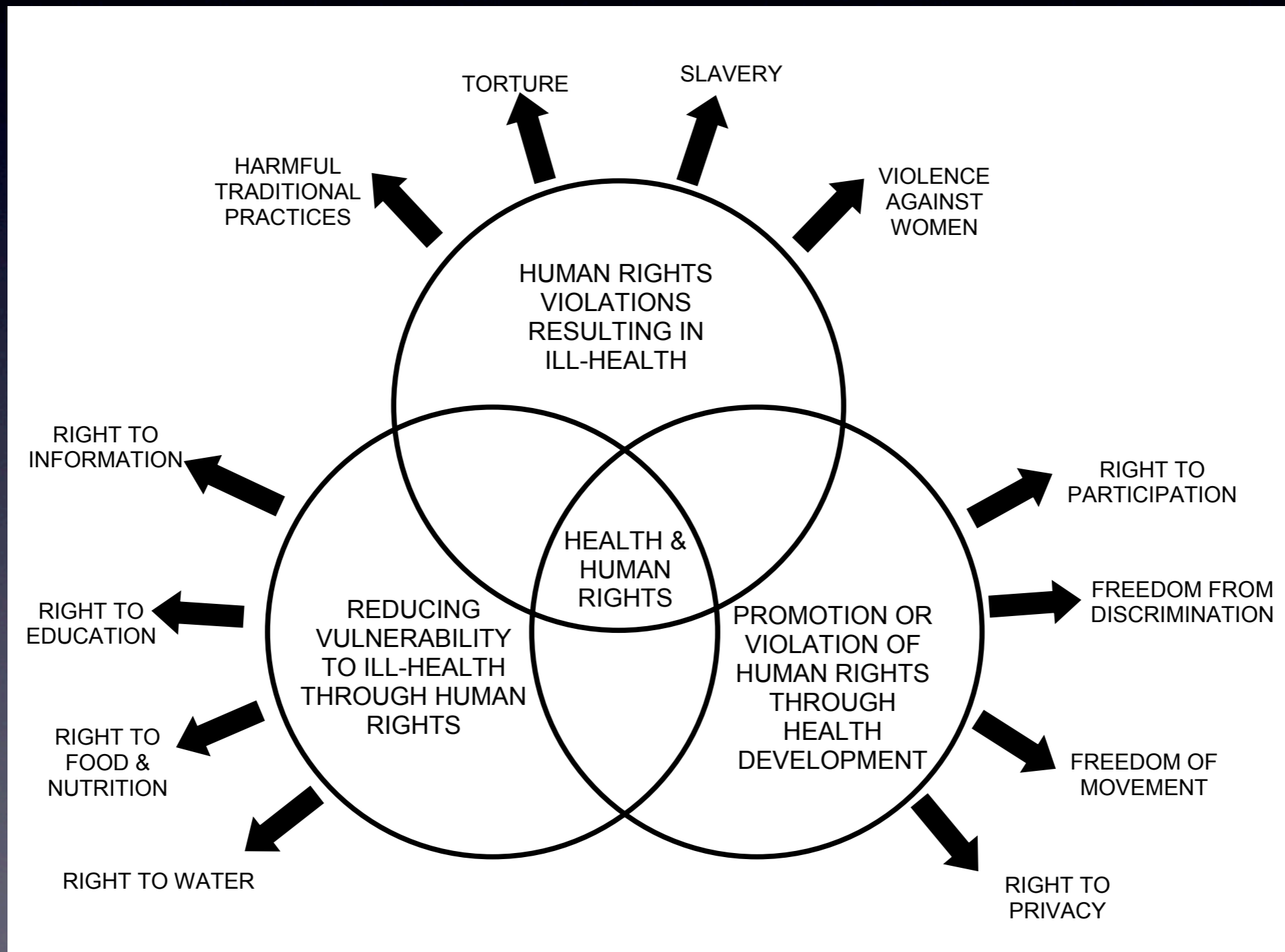
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# What is Right to Health?

- The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
  - Fundamental to understanding life and dignity
  - A fundamental part of overall human rights

# Linkage between health & human rights

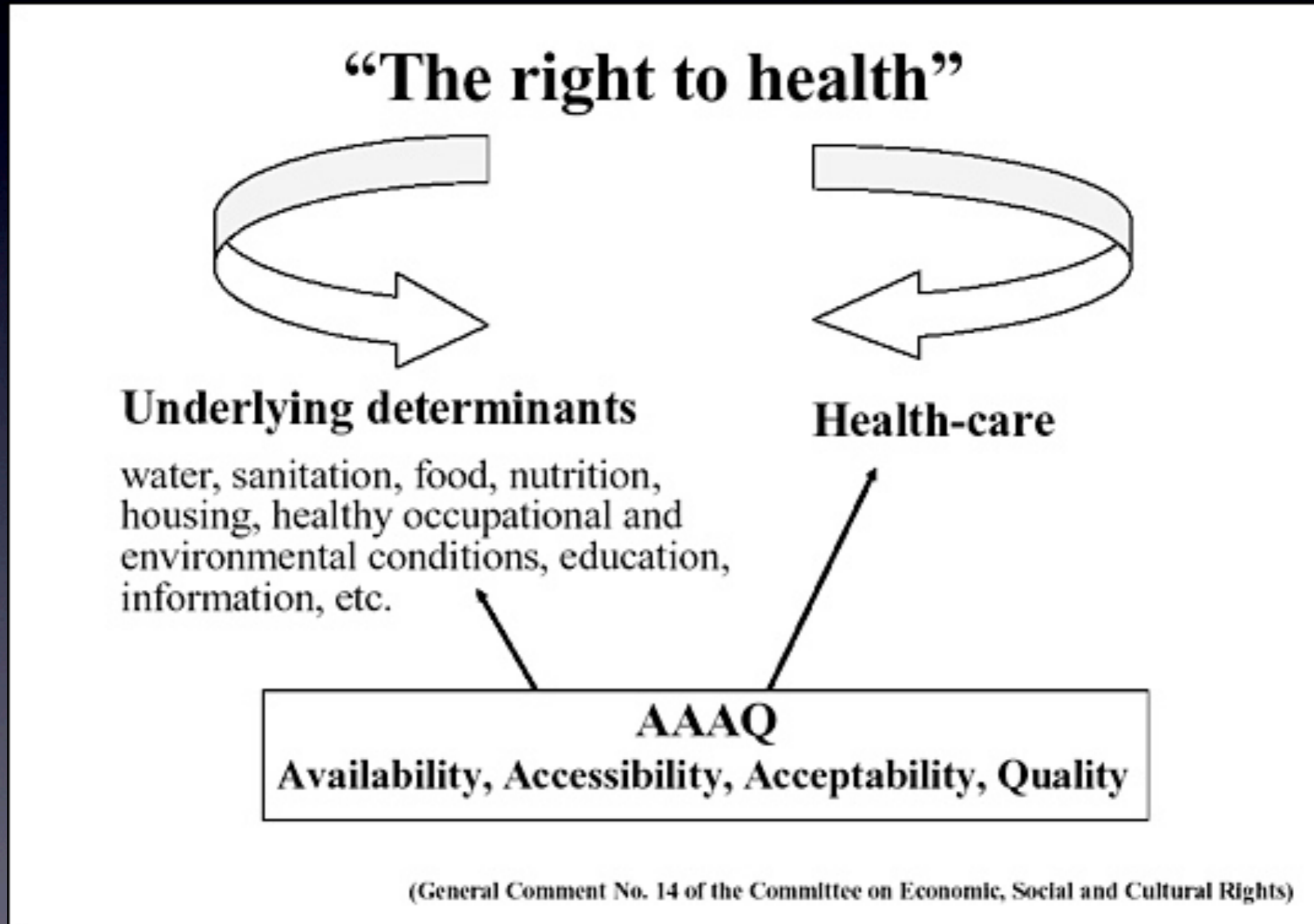


# Key Aspects of Right to health

# Right to health is inclusive

Inclusive of not just healthcare and hospitals but other determinants which promote health e.g., safe drinking water, nutritious food, shelter, environment etc.

# Links with determinants of health



# Right to health contains entitlements

Equal opportunity to access healthcare service  
and other healthcare goods to everyone  
without discrimination.

# Right to health contains freedoms

Freedom from inhuman activities and those that  
degrade human dignity.

Freedom from coercion, force and torture



# Right to health & the girl child

# Convention on Rights of Child...

States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health-care services.

# Convention on Rights of Child...

States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

1. *(a)* To diminish infant and child mortality;
2. *(b)* To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;
3. *(c)* To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;
4. *(d)* To ensure appropriate prenatal and post-natal health care for mothers;
5. *(e)* To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic

# Vulnerability of Children

- Children especially girl children are vulnerable to:
  - Malnutrition
  - Violence
  - Infectious diseases
  - Sexual and reproductive health issues
  - Stress and Mental health

# Issues at St. Martha's

- Common causes of morbidity in the pediatric age group at St. Martha's Hospital
  - Respiratory Diseases
  - Infectious diseases
  - Liver disorders

# Issues at St. Martha's...

- Common causes of morbidity among the Neonates
  - Prematurity
  - Small for date
- Both these issues are linked to maternal nutrition and poverty

# Other overarching issues...

- Cost of treatment. One of the major hinderances in access to healthcare is the cost of treatment
- Geographical limit to service since resources are limited unlike the government healthcare system.
- Limitation in addressing other issues that determine health of the people like availability of safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter, nutritious food etc.

# What can St. Martha's do?

- Improve access to services:
  - Open NICU for babies referred from outside
  - Open isolation ward for infectious disease rather than refer them out
  - Improving health education program within the hospital. Teaching mothers on nutrition, sanitation etc.



- Improving access by reducing cost:
  - As a NGO run hospital, where funds have to be locally generated, effective mechanisms to finance poor patients need to be considered. Creating a larger corpus of funds for treating poor patients
  - Use of generic drugs which reduces the cost of medicine to the patient

# Contd...

- Improve availability of services
  - For physically and mentally challenged children
  - Baby/child friendly OPD and IP - play areas, toy & book library etc

- Improving quality
  - Improving ambience
  - Mechanisms for Medical Audit
  - Working towards NABH accreditation of the hospital

Thank You!