The Medical Centre has a maternity wing and a child care centre, with a doctor and excellent staff.

Children need to be cared for from the time they are conceived until they reach maturity and I strongly advise expectant mothers to come here regularly. [1]

We have seen in the Northern Areas of Pakistan and the Kutchiabadi slums of Karachi that we can engage their energies and intelligence in meeting their own health needs through changed attitudes and behaviour. If poorer, less educated people help define their own health needs, they are more likely to mobilise the resources to satisfy them - thereby distributing cost and preempting the enormous economic burden that health services now impose upon the developing world. [2]

Many hospitals seem to have a limited appreciation of what can be done in [the field of prevention]. Why is this? ... Whenever a bed is utilised by a patient whose disease could have been prevented, our efforts in the area of public health and community health have been confounded. [4]

I have just returned from a fascinating visit to the People’s Republic of China. Their hospitals are organised into a system from rural and municipal, not only by speciality needs, but by integrating 'traditional' and 'Western medicine' resources. I am told that in certain areas of that vast land, referral links between hospitals at different levels are well-defined and exceptions are clearly understood and recognised. [4]

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Islam] urges the individual to lead a balanced life, one that strives to accommodate both material progress and spiritual well-being. But no man, woman or child can hope to achieve this balance in sickness, illiteracy or squalor. You are all engaged in the most vital business there is - the well being of the people of the world - and I too ... have become deeply involved in the provision of basic health and education, which I believe are crucial stepping stones towards ... self-realisation and growth. [3]

Beyond the individual - the in-patient upon whom the hospital concentrates its resources - there lie vast communities of people whose lives are a cycle of poverty, unpredictability and ill health [for whom] there is no national programme of health care.... Twenty percent of the Aga Khan University's medical curriculum is in Community Health. It introduces young student doctors and nurses to the Kutchiabadi - Karachi’s urban slums - to the needs and ways and responses of people in conditions of poverty, uncertainty and suspicion. [2]