Experts call for comprehensive education of health workers

EXPERTS at a two-day workshop in Lagos have called for comprehensive education of health workers to understand the needs of each patient beyond the pathology. The experts were of the view that recognising each patient as a person with its own desires, fears and reality would allow the medical staff to approach the person holistically with care, acceptance and understanding.

In the views of Medical Director, St Rizlito Clinic, Lagos, Dr Alda Gemmani the need for health workers to see each patient as a person cannot be overemphasised as the core of their work centres on the values of human life. “There is need to develop a caring relationship and mutual respect. Medical workers cannot always cure the patient but they can always heal the person,” she added.

Gemmani who is also the Chief, Paediatric Anaesthesia Unit, Rimini Hospital, Italy explained that with 25 years of experience in Nigeria treats over 70,000 patients annually, adding that most of their activities are focused on promoting health education, community participation with focus on health challenges of public health significance amongst others. “We serve the under privileged communities in Lagos and Taraba State, through educational activities, basic health care service, women empowerment and vocational training.” In his address, Chief Arthur Mbaneo, Founder, Arthur Mbaneo Digital Research Centre, AMDRC, added that the workshop was targeted at Senior Medical Community in Lagos, Public Health Care and Welfare Government Officers, the pharmaceutical community, corporate social responsibility managers and the health officers of major private organisations.

He said the Centre was set up after his retirement to contribute to reduce the gap in the country’s education. The workshop inaugurates the cooperation between the AMDRC and Loving Gaze.

Speaking, Ms. Barbara Pepoli - Loving Gaze General Manager who noted that through its activities, Loving Gaze realised the severe lack of education and professional medical care faced by the local communities said “We recognise the dignity of each person without boundaries. And we share with Chief Arthur Mbaneo the belief that only education can plant seeds of hope, positive change, curiosity and openness to others. Medical work becomes important and valuable only when it gives dignity to human life.”