QUERETARO: IT MAY STAND APART BUT IT STANDS ON ITS OWN.

AUTOR: ISABELLA IVONNE HERNÁNDEZ ISLAS

"What do you know about healthcare in Queretaro?" asked Dr. Juan José Moreno Ponce. Clearly, with little exposure to hospital life, hands-on experience and management in healthcare a bunch of 19-year-old private school-med students were the least qualified people to comment. Nonetheless, we did, with a limited perception, and pointed towards what is believed to be common knowledge,it was described by using words like inaccessible, deficient, and even lacking empathy. Although there are undoubtedly many things for Queretaro´s public healthcare system to work on, I firmly believe that undermining public health workers and administrative efforts would be a mistake.

Standing apart from the rest when it comes to healthcare politics has allowed Querétaro to grow on its own. Strategies like "Tarjeta Salud Contigo" will enable the nine hundred thousand people without IMSS and ISSSTE to have access to free medical attention in 198 health centers and 5 hospitals in the state1,2. This shows the state's initiative towards closing the gap left by the "Seguro Popular", by giving vulnerable sectors of the population a safety net to fall back on. Querétaro is strengthening its public health system in a way that benefits its citizens keeping their interests in mind.

In Quereratos' pursuit of facilitating healthcare, the Centro de Salud de Servicios Ampliados Amealco is setting an example by redefining the meaning of inclusive medical practice. Their objective is to guarantee health care to Indigenous communities, individuals with physical or mental impairments, third age, migrants, sexual diversity, and pregnant women3. For the indigenous sector, the center represents a bridge between Mexican traditional medicine like "Herbolaria" and "Temazcal" and clinical support units, transforming medical practice in our country.

There is no silver bullet. There is no all-solving government. And no "know-it-all " Doctor. Still, Querétaro is becoming an example because of its healthcare community and educational growth and will continue to do so for the next few years. Therefore, what could be done to change people's perception of the public healthcare system?

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