Sir,

The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched on 7 January, 2014 by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, hon'ble Union Health Minister. For the first time, Government of India has developed a comprehensive programme to address all aspects of adolescent health in the country. The lop-sided approach of focussing mainly on female sexual and reproductive health will hopefully be a thing of the past. With the launch of this programme, the government tacitly acknowledges that the needs of adolescent boys have largely been ignored until now.

This initiative hopes to bridge the gap between programmes specifically targeting children, and those aimed squarely at adults. It is the first major step towards the continuum of care concept promoted by the World Health Organization.

The programme is notable for its deliberate shift away from a doctor-centric approach. It has six strategic priorities:
1. Nutrition
2. Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)
3. Non-Communicable diseases
4. Substance misuse
5. Injuries and violence (including Gender based violence)
6. Mental health

In addition, the programme is focussing upon seven critical components (7Cs) in each programme area:
1. Coverage
2. Content
3. Communities
4. Clinics (health facilities)
5. Counselling
6. Communication and
7. Convergence

Its emphasis on a broad range of preventive and promotive activities, especially those related to non-communicable diseases and mental health, is a welcome change.

A lot of thought and effort has gone into this new initiative, and I wish it all success.

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End Note

Author Information
Liaquat Roopesh Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Sree Mookambika Institute of Medical Sciences, Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu 629161. E-mail: liaquat99@gmail.com.

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