

TED Speech Critique

Rishi Manchanda is a physician and public health innovator that has been working as a doctor for over a decade. He has been helping laboring class families, veterans, and people who work and live in hard conditions. His work has led him to believe that we need a fundamentally different way of looking at health care. Manchanda is the founder and president of a social network that teaches and authorizes clinicians to improve their health in home and operation environments.

The title of his talk is: "What makes us get sick? Look upstream." The main point of the talk is to explain people the concept of the new treatment approach that offers unusual services. This approach involves services of qualified medical specialist that would pay attention to a patient's life outside of exam room and would be able to perform a thorough examination of a patient's living conditions.

First of all, I like the idea of creating a health care system that would be oriented toward improving health at places where people spend a majority of their lives. Unfortunately, we pay hospitals and doctors for the number of services they provide, but not for how healthy they make us. We require a system that goes beyond just examining the symptoms that force people come to clinics, but would actually provide a possibility to improve health where it begins, particularly at places where we work, eat, play, and sleep. It would save us a great amount of time and money, as well as prevent from obtaining various diseases if a doctor would come to a house of a patient and tell what might have a negative effect on health.

Next, I like the fact that scientists found out that living and working conditions of every person account for nearly sixty percent of preventable death, because it supports the need for the new approach. Thus, I feel that it is very important to combine our efforts in order to make our

government change our current health care system, so that we would not have to throw away our money or spend time on useless activities ever again.

The third feature that I like regarding this talk is that Manchanda clearly emphasizes various advantages of the approach. He points out that his way of treatment could be defined as beneficial since in our contemporary health care system, doctors treat symptoms without addressing the conditions that make people become sick in the first place.

I do not like the fact that most people visit medical specialists and do not observe any noticeable health improvement. Moreover, instead of a relief, they end up wasting their money and visiting health establishments regularly. For instance, one of Manchanda's patients, named Veronica, came into their clinic with a chronic headache. She complained that her headache had been going on for several years. Veronica also mentioned that three weeks before she came to them, she visited an emergency room in Los Angeles. The emergency room doctor explained that her results were normal and prescribed medication to her. He also told her to follow up with a primary care doctor; however, he made her understand that if her pain persists or worsens, she will have to come back. Despite the fact that Veronica was following the instructions of that doctor, she went back to visit him twice more. I also do not like the fact that modern doctors do not ask patients where they live or work, because if there would be a problem there they would not know what to tell them. Thus, I feel that it is vital for the government to allocate money in order to train highly qualified specialists that would be able to make an appropriate assessment of living and working conditions of their patients.

My reaction to the talk is positive since Manchanda discusses several critical issues that concern health of every individual. He explains that these issues need to be taken into an account when performing a diagnosis of a patient (Manchanda, 2014).