

Family Medicine, Healthcare & Society:  
*Essays by Dr MK Rajakumar*

## 2.

# The Importance of Primary Care

*Rajakumar MK. The importance of primary care. J R Coll Gen Pract. 1978;28:91-5.*  
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### Introduction

The past three decades have witnessed a worldwide surge of interest in primary medical care. This has reflected a deeply felt need for a physician who is close to the family and the community. Medical advances have made it possible to meet this need although the old general practitioner and an amorphous medical tradition are gone. The new general practitioner or family physician brings specific skills to the highly specialised disciplines of contemporary medicine.

### Development of specialisation

There was a time when all physicians were general practitioners and the most important distinction between them was the school to which they belonged. The great divide in medicine came with the development of hospitals. The hospital as