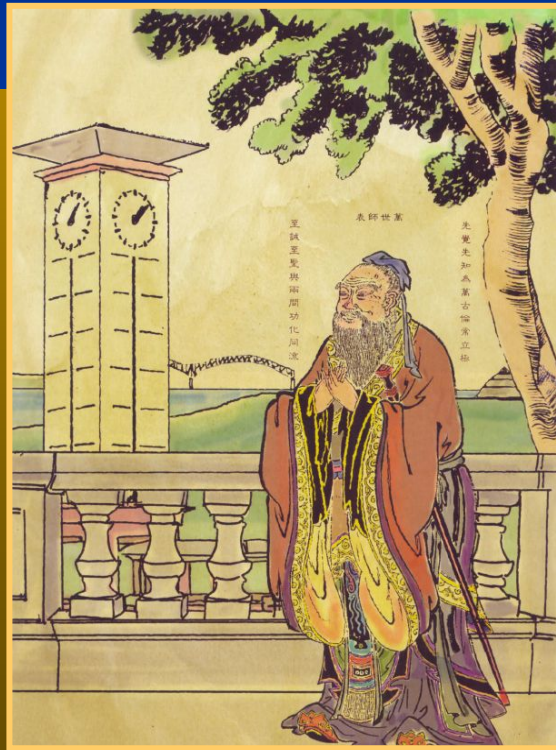


Prevention:



the case for more Confucius and less confusion...

Rectifying names...

- Zilu said, “The ruler of Wei awaits your taking on administration. What would be master's priority?”
- The master replied, “Certainly--rectifying names!”



Rectifying the names in prevention

- Prevention itself
- Primary prevention
- Secondary prevention
- Tertiary prevention

Names to be rectified

■ Primary Prevention ('big P')

Limits the incidence of disease and disability by controlling exposure to risk and promoting protective health factors at the population level

■ Secondary Prevention

Reduces the progression of diseases through early detection, usually by screening and early intervention, and is limited largely to at-risk groups

■ Tertiary Prevention

Reduces the negative impact of established disease by restoring function and reducing complications in the affected subset of the population.

More names to be rectified!

■ Primary health care – a strategy of public health

‘Characteristically, primary health care practitioners work to change the social, political, environmental and economic determinants of illness in order to create better health...in other words, a PHC service operates on social justice principles.

‘Based on the understanding that in order for health gain ... people’s basic needs must first be met - shelter, support, safety from violence and reliable, affordable food supplies...’

Primary care

‘A client’s first point of entry into the health system.

‘It involves a single service or intermittent management of a person’s specific illness or disease condition.

‘Primary care providers are focused on early diagnosis and timely, effective treatment.’

(H. Keleher, 2001)

From Government rhetoric towards action

Requires:

- clear definitions of prevention
- determination of who is responsible for prevention
- determination of how to deliver prevention
- sustained, adequate funding and political leverage at all levels of government
- partnerships inside and outside government.