Pushpa Raj Sharma’s “Handbook of Paediatric Problems” has come a long way since its first publication in 1990 with several revisions and from a small hand book to a growing size book with new contributors. Professor Sharma is a very popular paediatrician and a renowned teacher who has been teaching and practicing paediatrics for more than three decades at a pioneer Institute of Nepal. As written in its preface this book was intended initially to health workers at district hospitals of Nepal but now the target readers are mainly undergraduate and postgraduate students, with updated knowledge which is practical and useful for managing patients in the hospital setting as well as reviewing the subject while studying for exams.

There are separate sections on paediatric history and examination, drug dosages, growth & development, neonatology, social and preventive paediatrics and various body systems. Appropriate flow charts for approaches to various conditions like hypertension and septic shock and tables for presenting genetic diseases, inborn errors of metabolism and various other chapters are very useful for easy access and quick review. Appropriate emphasis has been given to problems commonly seen in this part of the world such as malnutrition, pneumonia with its complications and diarrhea. Problems that the author has come across over the years have been portrayed with excellent photographs and radiographs, which along with the exhaustive bibliography are proof of the tremendous effort that has been made while writing this book. Each chapter has highlighted sections with notes considered important by the author for readers and this is something students would need while preparing for exams. The font size for the text is not reader friendly though it is similar to previous editions of this book maintaining its tradition of hand book and probably to save pages.

Colour Illustrations and highlights are introduced for the first time in this book from this edition. This has made it easy for the reader to appreciate important features especially of various conditions. Not to forget are the beautiful photos and text boxes the author gathered during his long career.

Since the ‘hand book’ in the beginning has become larger and heavier by the time it reached fourth edition making it a near text book. Further expansion of texts at various sections and chapters will fulfill the demands of the growing numbers of Nepalese medical and paramedical students studying Paediatrics in Nepal and abroad as well. This pioneer work and publication in Nepalese Paediatric education needs to be expanded as a national text book in future editions if not international.

Such colour illustrated book with reasonable price is worthy to collect and read for all medical and paramedical undergraduates, paediatric residents and all doctors taking care of children.

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