



Editorial
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Is there a Mushrooming of Doctors from Bangladesh?

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Medical profession has undergone many changes in the last decade or so. Commercialism in the profession has given it a bad name. People no more respect the doctors and think of them as businessmen especially in the multi-specialty hospitals of the metros. In many cases recently doctors have been thrashed badly by patients and their attendants.

There are many reasons for this poor image of doctors. One of the important reasons is the poor quality of doctors being produced by poor quality medical colleges. After the boom of the "Russian doctors" now it is the turn of the "Bangladeshi doctors".

Let me make it very clear that the standard of doctors trained by medical colleges in Bangladesh is far better than the ones from erstwhile Russia (exceptions are always there). But there has to be a check on the number of students graduating from these places.

This year there has been real mushrooming. There are total 83 recognized medical colleges in Bangladesh, 29 of which are public and 54 private. Apart from these, there are six medical colleges which are run by the Bangladesh Armed Forces and are under the Ministry of Defense.

According to a rough estimate more than 10,000 students from Kashmir alone have joined MBBS course in various medical colleges of Bangladesh. This is around five times more than what was the norm every year. But this comes at a price. Soon there would be super saturation among medicos. Government jobs are limited and private institutions here are not advanced. The new doctor may feel stuck up and frustrated. How he or she copes up will really be challenging.

More importantly there needs to be quality control and quality assurance of these would-be doctors. There was talk of the Medical Council of India taking up the issue and making a qualifying exam necessary for all MBBS done from India as well as abroad. This initiative may prove beneficial in the long run. Another important issue is of periodic relicensing of doctors. That will help in keeping the doctors up to date in the ever-changing and ever-increasing knowledge of medical science.

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