

## **Unrest in Hospitals and Junior Doctors' Movement September, 2016**

Unrest, violence and pandemonium become synonym of Government Hospitals. Intermittently it flares up like recent incidents in IPGMER, Kolkata, where The Chief Minister had to intervene. Before her foreign trip in The Vatican, Italy and Germany she prescribed for behavioural and managerial remedies. But this cosmetic surgery cannot solve the deep rooted problems lying in our socio-economic-cultural and political system with poor – economy, infrastructure, man power, service and work culture.

The protesting junior doctors have posted their demands, which were circulated earlier, where the main trigger factors, i.e., TOUT CARTEL AND CATCH-PATIENT ADMISSION are pinpointed which are not addressed (read avoided) by the authority years after years due to political pressure. In our housejobship in IPGMER we could not admit seriously ill and needy patients in our own unit. After death of a patient, like a magic, the tout cartel admitted another patient in that bed taking huge money. From Male Aayas (usually relatives of Gp. D staff) to staff posted in Emergency and Office to police to high placed personalities were attached in this profiteering business. The then Youth Congress leader Madan Mitra and CPIM strongman of Bhawanipur Rathin (Paltu) Roy Chowdhury were leading the touts and hooligans inside the hospital campus. Paltu has lost his clout but Madan still has a strong nexus in IPGMER. Every hospital in West Bengal has its own dadas and tout cartel. Here I would like to highlight another important aspect – **OVERCROWDING and OVERSATURATION**. Treatment of a patient is not a child's play. It needs proper attention, care and management which needs proper environment. **The political leaders and bureaucrats cannot understand this but unfortunately they are on the top of all hospital and health committees in our country and our state.** Whether it is IPGMER or NRS or CMC or CNMC or B.C. Roy Children Hospital or STM or MR Bangur DH or Howrah DH, you cannot move properly due to overcrowding and oversaturation. Then how a doctor or a nursing staff or a health personnel can work properly? Naturally there is increased probability of mistake resulting catastrophes and hue and cry.

This aspect is to be taken care of our policy makers and administrators. Few years back when we were studying **Health System of Cuba**, which is adjudged the best in the world by the **WHO**, we surprisingly discovered that it is almost same with our country. The difference is it works efficiently there, not here. The doctors and health personnel who supposed to stay in villages are residing there. Contrary to that, leaving the Sub-Centres, PHCs, BPHCs and RHs empty we are thronging in and around Kolkata or Howrah or Siliguri or Bardhaman or Chinsura or Behrampur or Durgapur. If we properly run the existing health set up (with necessary improvement) only then this unnecessary exodus can be halted before our apex hospitals, otherwise this unrest, violence and pandemonium will continue. [01.09.16]

## **Demands of junior doctors of S.S.K.M. hospital**

On protesting the brutal attack by the outsider hooligans and dalals on the on duty doctors of Medicine department, we the junior doctors of SSKM Hospital submitted our deputation copy to Director, IPGMER on 30.08.16(Tuesday).

Our demands were,

1. STOP "DALAL RAJ" in SSKM Hospital campus.
2. To give proper security to doctors,nurses and other staffs in wards.
3. STOP CATCH-PATIENT admission immediately without clinical indication.
4. To close the office which is occupied by the dalals,situated in front of administrative building permanently.
5. To activate and maintain 8 ZONE SECURITY PANEL immediately.
6. To take necessary steps against on duty police personnel.
7. Immediately arrest the other goons who were involved in junior doctors assault
8. To improve infrastructural inadequacy in SSKM Hospital.
9. To start ERU immediately.
10. To recruit significant number of doctors expertise in ACLS &BLS in emergency set up.

Cabinet Minister Mr. Arup Biswas, Director of Medical Education(DME) and honourable HEALTH SECRETARY, MSVP, SSKM Hospital, Dean of Students Affairs, IPGMER were also present there. After the immense pressure of our movement and due to 6 hours of Gherao, Authority personnel were compelled to fulfill our demands and they have given us the verbal assurance that all of our demands will be fulfilled within next 7 days. Our movement will continue until our demands get fulfilled, otherwise we will call for the larger movement.

**LONG LIVE JUNIOR DOCTORS MOVEMENT**

-Junior Doctors Unity.