

SHORT COMMUNICATION

FORENSIC MEDICINE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

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Medicine and law have been related from the earliest times, perhaps from the perceived necessity of protecting the community from the irresponsible acts of unqualified medical practitioner and quacks. Forensic medicine deals with the application of medical and paramedical knowledge to aid in the administration of justice. It is used by the legal authorities for the solution of legal problems. Some examples are: applying the medical knowledge in deciding cases of injuries, murder, suicide, accidents, sexual offences, poisoning etc because law have no medical knowledge The beauty of the discipline of Forensic Medicine is its multifaceted nature and its extension and relevance into many branches of medicine. Of note is its medical, social and legal relevance. Mainly in our country forensic service given by two ways: Autopsy (Forensic Pathology) and Victim Examination (Clinical forensic medicine). In Bangladesh all unnatural deaths are to be reported at the nearest police station and an appointed police officer should visit the scene of crime for investigation and to arrange Autopsy if required¹. Every citizen wants proper justice which can be ensured by proper autopsy. But in our country Forensic Medicine is neglected and day by day deteriorating. The forensic services of the country are delivered partly by academic staffs of Government Medical Colleges and the rest by the Civil Surgeons. Sometimes, Resident Medical Officers in the district hospitals perform the medico-legal work. Most of them have no forensic qualifications except a long exposure in the medico-legal field. More than two decades academic and professional postgraduate courses are available in our country. More than 100 medical colleges are present in the country . We have only 5 professors, 6 Associate professor and 3 assistant professor in government medical colleges in Forensic Medicine Department.

Recently a judge expressed outrage that, The Autopsy faulty rates currently 99%². Only one DNA lab & chemical analyzer laboratory in Dhaka available which remains always busy for whole country report burden. So there is always delays in receiving report from

them which creates a great interruption in judicial system. So it is very vital issue to create post of teacher immediately in forensic medicine department in all Medical College. Health Ministry should give opportunity for lateral entry, to enter in this department as a direct Assistant professor, who has post graduate degree in this subject. It's time to improve our forensic department otherwise these greatly impact our judicial system. In our country doctor are not interested to build up carrier in this subject due to no GP practice, court harassment also threaten life of the doctor. On the other hand, in western countries forensic doctor profession has high dignity and enriches salary. While different countries have different academic institutional review processes and different sources and allocation of internal and external funding, a common theme appears in the field of Forensic Medicine: lack of funding for forensic medicine; insufficient academic output compared to other disciplines and the need for better regulation of forensic research. We need a more strategic and integrated approach for raising the profile of Forensic Medicine in the clinical spheres and forensic research in the medical and scientific arena. If we can overcome the problem in each of our countries first - by centralizing and dealing with the relevant issues in forensic research and then putting in place better regulation for forensic research-we will make progress towards improved international communication and international standards. Other areas of improvement could be a revival of Academic Forensic Medicine by the creation more post graduation doctor in this field. This can be done by creating residency MD course. So government should take immediately right decision in proper time and help justice system run smoothly.

Keywords: Mortuary, justice, autopsy room, forensic doctors.

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