

# JOURNEY OF THE ORTHOPAEDICS IN BANGLADESH

The first Orthopaedic department of Bangladesh 129129(the then East Pakistan) was established in Dhaka Medical College Hospital in 1963. Professor Omar Ahmed Jamal, FRCS joined as the Associate Professor and developed the specialty in DMCH. Before that and since the beginning of this hospital, the head of the unit 2 of surgery, usually a General Surgeon was known to be the 'Bone Specialist' and would do whatever Orthopaedic management was possible.

The term orthopedics meant the correcting of musculoskeletal deformities in children. Nicolas Andry, a professor of medicine at the University of Paris, coined the term in the first textbook written on the subject in 1741.

Jean-André Venel established the first orthopedic institute in 1780, which was the first hospital dedicated to the treatment of children's skeletal deformities. He developed the club-foot shoe for children born with foot deformities and various methods to treat curvature of the spine.

Many developments in orthopedic surgery have resulted from experiences during wartime. On the battlefields of the Middle Ages, the injured were treated with bandages soaked in horses' blood, which dried to form a stiff, if unsanitary, splint. Professor Omar Jamal worked in DMCH till 1971 and played a crucial role to treat the war wounded patients of that period, the Late Director of NITOR Professor Faruk Reza Awlad

and Professor Mesbahuddin Iqbal of Anaesthesia worked as medical officer and Asst registrar with him at that time.

In the last six decades Orthopaedics in Bangladesh also has reached a considerable height among other specialties of medical science. In DMCH also our department is a big one with 70 beds and at any moment we have more than 100 patients admitted in our allocated beds and in the cabins. Now eight separate Orthopaedic subspecialty works here namely Traumatology, deformity correction and Illizarov, Pelvi-acetabular surgery, Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy, Spine, Paediatric Orthopaedics and Arthroplasty in OPD & indoor basis.

Orthopaedics and Traumatology is an essential part of undergraduate medical science and gaining importance with every advancement of this subject. Trauma is inevitable so management of trauma has to be at the top of medical education in the whole world, luckily the developed countries have made Trauma management, the most important part of their medical curriculum but there's a lot to do in the developing world.

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