

তারিখ 19 APR 1988  
পৃষ্ঠা 3



114

## Medical Profession: Some Thoughts

M. Atiqul Haque

ONE thing I must clarify, beforehand, that while writing on a subject, we discuss things and we discuss about persons engaged in the profession, not to make them a target of public fury, but to draw their attention to the needs and desires of the public to reform, to improve, and thus to serve the interests of the public.

Medical Service, it goes without saying, is at once the noblest service, because, it tends to serve the human beings who are the noblest creation of Allah on this earth. For that matter, all services tend to serve man, the ultimate cream of the creation of Allah, for whose sake all other things of this universe have been created. So medical people, and the doctors and the nurses, particularly, have also been created to serve man. But if some of these doctors in our country forget their professional ethics, should we call them servers of humanity or killers of humanity is a question.

Whatever name you call them, they are an essential lot. And they are our brothers and sisters and sons and nephews. They are a part of our society. And since they are a part of our society and since our society is a diseased society, how can they be

immune from the ills of that society? It is for us to reform, and when we are reformed and correct, they are also reformed and correct.

But one thing is different. They have chosen to go for this profession and they have opted to serve their brothers and sisters in society. There are hundreds of other ways and means in our society to make money, but they have discarded all these means to make money, and have accepted this noble profession to serve the noblest creation. And if this is correct, why should some of them behave like all those greedy Shylocks to have a pound of flesh? The pound of flesh is for the worshippers of money, but the worshippers of service should be content with their service they are able to contribute to their people;

In one of my books: "Towards A Welfare State" written in Pakistan days, I had told that the man who would go for—"this medical profession should be told how to love humanity.... or else he will be just another butcher who will go on slaughtering people like animals".

What is wrong with us? Why some of our doctors have become mad for money? They have got the highest degree of education and training that the country can afford to give them.

They have been given this degree and training at the cost of the public exchequer. Each medical student incurs the cost of around Tk. ten thousand a month from the public exchequer for his studies and training and experiments. And when he becomes a doctor should he refuse to go to a village, because, he will not get the full facilities of a modern life?

A patient in a Sylhet clinic died recently of operation wounds allegedly because, his poor wife could not manage to give his additional demand for Tk. five hundred. Another patient died in Sylhet Medical College allegedly because his people could not pay for the blood donated from the 'blood bank'. What for is the blood bank? If the poor are not given the blood free of cost, what for has the bank been created? And what for are the public donating blood?

There are many things available on this earth to trade on to make money, but for God's sake let us not trade on human life and human miseries. If one is so greedy for money or if one's attachment to money is so uncontrollable, than one should change the profession and go over to the I.P. market or to the gold market to mint money. Only a week ago there was report in most of the newspapers that

a lady had to be operated again after five years to extract four-inch scissors from her stomach that was left there by mistake. But it is a mistake that can kill.

But, I am sure, only a few people are there who are unscrupulous enough to make a good thing bad: In a meeting of half a million people two or three rascals are needed to turn it into a pandemonium. And the more the valuable, the more is the smell of it when it rots. Similarly, the medical service is the noblest service and the most popular service, all over the world. But when a rascal, in the noble name of this noble profession, wants to bring disreputation to the name of doctors, he does it to trade on human miseries. But the majority of the doctors are not like him.

Moreover, doctors have a point of their own. They take usually longer years to pass out from the medical college. They put in their hard labour to establish themselves. Do they get in return adequate recognition and sufficient facilities from the Government? If not, they have a reason to attend to the monetary side of their profession as well. Either the Government or the society has to ensure that side of their living, or else the society will have to pay heavily for this lapse.