

Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy: Dream and Demand of Physiotherapists

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Physiotherapists are independent medical professionals and physiotherapy begins in Bangladesh in order to treat and rehabilitate injured freedom fighters. Physiotherapy course starts after liberation war, 45 years has gone but independent Govt run Physiotherapy College is yet not established. By this time number of physiotherapists have completed graduation, post-graduation even PhD but they did not get to provide their service from public hospital. According to World Health Organization those who completed at least Bachelor degree of Physiotherapy is considered as Physiotherapist who is an independent medical professional and able to diagnose and treat patient as well. In developed world like USA undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral level physiotherapy course is running now and they announced within 2020 almost all courses of physiotherapy will be transformed into Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT). Even our neighboring country Pakistan they also started Doctor of Physiotherapy. There are number of Government run physiotherapy college/institute in India but regret to say there is no single Government run separate physiotherapy college in Bangladesh yet though non-communicable diseases like stroke, diabetes, arthritis are increasing day by day due to altering of life style. Awareness on disability particularly autism is high now and physiotherapist plays key role on child disability. In Bangladesh both undergraduate and post graduate physiotherapy courses is running now under Faculty of Medicine. It is mentionable that Government has given land, fixed money for Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy due to pressure of student's movement couple of years back but still no implementation is seen. As a result lot of patients suffering from arthritis, stroke, back pain, neck pain, frozen shoulder, disability, cerebral palsy, autism are depriving from quality physiotherapy services from public hospital. Moreover number of medical and dental colleges are increasing rapidly even nursing institute/college also but students and professionals are still fighting to set up Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy. Once upon a time there was physiotherapy department in Govt. medical colleges but now it is changed into Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department without any logical reason; tendency to occupy post of physiotherapists by other medical professionals which is not desirable. So time has come to think about this very much urgent issue. Concern authority as well as policy maker can solve this problem for the betterment of patients. Rehabilitation is the key component of World Health Organization. WHO can contribute in rehabilitation sector of Bangladesh by collaborating policy maker as well as Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (www.bd-bpa.org).

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