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Medical profession in crisis: Why doctors must look beyond the technical part of their profession

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Public faith in the healthcare system has started eroding in recent years and patients are sometimes dissatisfied with their medical care and suspicious of medical professionals. The doctors themselves too are starting to feel frustrated, insecure and exploited and many feel like pawns in the hands of the rapidly changing environment in which they work with no control over it and find their idealism lost somewhere along the way. To rectify this situation and restore people's confidence in them, doctors need to take the initiative in correcting public perception. This involves looking beyond the clinical and scientific side of the practice of medicine into its social, psychological, economic, cultural, legal, political and other non-technical aspects including understanding the role of perceptions, vested interests, pressure groups and propaganda and also learning about the scientific study of social problems acquiring better communication skills, identifying prejudices and assuming a leadership role. For this, the doctor must understand the mindset of the patients and of the family members, appreciate their needs and perceive their expectations, besides identifying the requirements of the community and the society as a whole. It also necessitates learning more about the human factors (both individual and collective) involved in health and disease. The final aim is to deliver quality care while achieving patient satisfaction and professional satisfaction.

Biography

Arun Kumar Mehra is an Anesthesiologist with over twenty years of experience including teaching experience. He is presently a Coordinator of Cardiac Anesthesia at Saroj Super Speciality Hospital, India. He is also an MBA (Healthcare Administration) from the Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University and has held managerial responsibilities, taught management classes and is a Trained Internal Auditor for NABH. His special interest is in the sociology and economics of healthcare. With a wide range of other interests, he has a qualification in Creative Writing from the Indira Gandhi National Open University, is a published author and also has training in Lateral Thinking.

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