

## Doctor Patient Relationship: an Untouched Issue in Bangladesh

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### Abstract

*The doctor patient relationship is an important and the most difficult interpersonal relationship in health care and throughout the history it has been scrutinized. It was aimed to look into the status of available literatures on doctor patient relationship in context of Bangladesh and to see the current pattern of the relationship existing in Bangladesh. Search was done in PubMed, PubMed Central, Google Scholar & BanlaJOL with searching key words till to date and unfortunately only one article was found on the topic in Bangladesh context. Fortunately the article validated the relationship measuring instrument which opens the sector to use that and to create benchmark data bases as well as to move further. There is extreme paucity of literatures on doctor patient relationship in Bangladesh context and to create a benchmark data as well as to establish and improve the professional relationship between the doctor and patients the sector demands adequate research on immediate basis.*

**Keywords:** Doctor Patient Relationship, Physician Patient Relationship, Bangladesh.

### Introduction

The doctor patient relationship is an important and the most difficult interpersonal relationship and throughout the history of medicine; doctors & patients has scrutinized and debated their relationship, for a variety of reasons [1]. The relationship has been linked to patients' satisfaction and treatment adherence, which ultimately drives to the better treatment outcome and many publications in the field of primary care mention the importance of the patient-doctor relationship [1-3]. In primary care, "knowing the patient is also important with knowing the disease", and physicians with a warm & friendly style are more effective than physicians with a more formal style [1,2]. It was also found that patients search out a Primary Care Practitioner who matches their own representation of an ideal and accept their choice in communication [1,3]. It was found that, "the quality of their relation determines not only the patient's and doctor's satisfaction but also the patient's compliance/adherence, ability of coping, relapse rate, quality of life and, to some extent, his state of health" [4]. Globally substantial efforts have been made to develop instruments & to assess the doctor patient relationship as well as there are plenty of literatures discussing the issue [1].

Bangladesh is densely populated country in South Asia with significant achievement in health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with noticeable Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth [5-7]. Unfortunately there are huge perceptual differences

in regards to the health services between the physician and patients as well as the general people. Physicians think that, they have humanistic contribution and they are being deprived according to their intellectual contribution and caliber whereas majority of the population think that, physicians are playing unjustified roles in regards to the financial gain. Violence against doctor as well as the health services providers by the patient party is not also uncommon in Bangladesh. Probably the professional relationship between the physician and the patient can minimize the perceptual gap. So, it was aimed to look into the status of available literatures on doctor patient relationship in context of Bangladesh and to conduct a mini review on the available literatures in the line of professional relationship between the patient and the physician.

### Methods and Materials

For selecting article search was done in PubMed, PubMed Central, Google Scholar & BanglaJOL with searching key words without any date range. Unfortunately there was only one article found validating the patient doctor relationship questionnaire (PDRQ-9) in Bangla.

### Searching keywords:

1. Doctor patient relationship in Bangladesh
2. Physician patient relationship in Bangladesh
3. Doctor patient relationship assessment in Bangladesh
4. Doctor patient relationship assessment tools in Bangladesh
5. Doctor patient relationship assessment instruments in Bangladesh
6. Doctor patient relationship status in Bangladesh
7. Doctor patient relationship measurement in Bangladesh

## Searching databases:

Google Scholar, PubMed, PubMed Central, BanglaJOL.

## Discussion

It was aimed to look into the status of available literatures on doctor patient relationship in context of Bangladesh and to conduct a review on the relationship pattern. Search was done in PubMed, PubMed Central, Google Scholar & BanglaJOL with searching key words and only one article was found in the Bangladesh context on doctor patient relationship.

Bangladesh is a densely populated country having population density 1063 per square kilometer and total population is about 160 million; achieved health related MDGs significantly with a noticeable GDP growth [5-7]. Health sector is advancing dramatically with its existing manpower significantly empowering the primary health care. At present the number of total registered physician is about 82,500 [8] for this huge population and most of the physicians are related with the primary health care in different ways. Moreover, the referral system between the care levels is very poor in Bangladesh. So people have freedom to choose their physicians in any sort of illness. As a result there is huge workload both in the institution as well as in the private chambers. Physicians face difficulties during the community level service provision. Sometimes doctors and health services providers have to face the harassment even physical assault by the patient party.

People think that physicians only look for money by any means and many of the patients die due to irresponsibility of the physicians. People are used take revenge in any unexpected death without proper investigations. Whereas physicians think that community level service is very cumbersome for them as because of hostile mentality of the people and mass media without proper exploration; immature service delivery system; poor health knowledge of the overall people. Adequate professional relationship can help to improve the blaming situation in both ways. But the search revealed very poor information on the relationship in Bangladesh context. Fortunately the found literature is regarding the measurement of patient doctor relationship (PDRQ-9 Bangla) [1]; that can be implemented in the community level and can explore the situation further.

Though the socioeconomic condition, culture, previous experience can constrain the way but further extensive studies on the topic in Bangladesh is a must in the globalized era. To create a benchmark data, to explore the current situation, to improve the health service status, to build efficient manpower, to ensure a better health, to contribute the economy, to expand the health services market globally the current relationship status has to be explored as well as improved.

As the doctor patient relationship is complex interpersonal relationship; scrutinized thoroughly; linked to patients' satisfaction and treatment adherence, ability of coping, relapse rate, quality of life and to some extent, his state of health; it is the time to address the issue appropriately in Bangladesh [1-4]. It has found that there

is substantial works to assess the doctor patient relationship as well as there are plenty of literatures discussing the issue but there is lacking of such literatures extensively in Bangladesh context [1].

## Conclusion

Though, person to person communication with the experts, extensive search in the other data bases and extended library work might contribute to the literatures but it can be easily said that there is extreme paucity of literatures on doctor patient relationship in Bangladesh context. To create a benchmark data as well as to establish and improve the professional relationship between the doctor and patients the sector demands adequate research on immediate basis.

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