



The thrills of a bone mender

'The best part about being in this field is to put a smile back onto the face of an old person who thought they would never be able to stand up'

DOCTOR Bharat Mody is a renowned name in medicine in India and patients from all over the world flock to his Knee Surgery Centre in the city of Baroda.

The Knee surgeon has a number of prestigious honours up his sleeves and has studied in celebrated universities around the world like Harvard University in America and the Royal College of Surgeons in England, where he studied for six years.

He obtained a degree of Master of Surgery in Orthopaedics from India and was selected by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSE) in 1989 for a four-year training programme at reputed teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom.

From here, Doctor Mody went on to obtain a degree of Master of Chirurgery (M.Ch) in Orthopaedics after completing a one-year course at the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom in 1993.

There were around 300 applicants for this course from all over the world of which Doctor Mody was one of the 12 candidates who were selected.

This remarkable surgeon has produced two thesis and over 16 publications in reputed international journals for Orthopaedics.

Despite this, the humble doctor says there is another reason apart from his experience and qualifications that attracts his many patients.

He believes doctors are useless if they do not understand the pains and suffering of their patients and at his clinic his staff members are trained and equipped to understand what their patients feel.

"A doctor's skills is of no use if he is not an empathic human being," says renowned knee surgeon Doctor Bharat Mody.

"He must understand the needs and suffering of his patients and feel what the patient is going through."

This, Doctor Mody said, was the secret behind his health clinic's success back home.

The Baroda native says the best thing about his job is to be able to cure his patients's their injuries and sickness with his various surgical procedures.

The best part about being in this field is to put a smile back onto the face of an old person who thought they would never be able to stand up and get themselves a glass of water ever again,"he said.

"And the smile which says that they would be able to do normal things again without the pain they had previously endured like playing a round of golf with their friends."

Doctor Mody says he receives complete satisfaction from seeing his patients fully recover after surgery.

The gifted physician was offered lucrative deals at various health centres in Western countries like the United Kingdom and America.

However, many of his former university colleagues were stunned when he indicated this desire to return to India to further his career.

I questioned Dr Mody on why he decided to come back and set up a practice at home after seeing the world through the eyes of a western educated academic.

"All you need is conviction that you can do all things in your own country," he said.

"And if you do some things really well and put your mind to it, then the world would come knocking on your door to have what you have made, you don't have."

"You don't have to go out to the market if your product is great because the market would come to you."

Doctor Mody's patients range from all over the world coming as far as Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Tanzania, Nairobi and Mombasa in Kenya, Panama in Central America, America and the United Kingdom.

"Many of them come to us because we provide them with that care with compassion which they find lacking in other health centres," he said.

"Also because we provide top knee surgeries and treatments cheap enough for people in third-world countries to afford."

Doctor Mody's reputation has world in his favour

Knee specialists in Australia have on many occasions invited him to present lectures and talks in regard to his surgical techniques and experience in the field.

"Since I was in Australia many of my patients here were in constant contact with me and suggested that I also come to Fiji to present my talks here,"he said.

"From the short time that I am here I have noticed that the major cause of knee surgery in most people in Fiji is through their ground-cultural traditions."

Doctor Mody explained that ground culture was simply defined how many people in the country tended to sit on the ground and do their religious practices on the floor because their culture required them to do.

"Because it is our culture we are not aware of how much damage it is having on our knees," he said.

"Seeing this through my patients eyes I have devised my own surgical procedures which enable them to do all these activities without any more pain."

Doctor Mody says he has enjoyed his stay in Fiji since Tuesday and says that the Fiji is like a pearl that has fallen from heaven.

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the Fiji is like a pearl that has fallen from heaven.

"The weather is perfect and the people are very friendly," he said.

"I have met so many people who have come to me for advice on their knees and hopefully in the future I may be able to come back and treat them someday."

Doctor Mody flies out of the country with his wife,, Harshida, who is also a surgeon and assists her husband in running the surgery.

With all his success and outstanding medical reputation, I wondered what was the attributing factor to Doctor Mody's achievement and success.

"As one journeys through like both failure and success meet them and I think this is what attributed to my success,"he said.

"And also the support from my family including my two sons back at home but most of all, I draw motivation from my patients."

Doctor Mody's advice to young aspiring doctors and medical students is not to leave their home land to go after success in another nation but to build a reputable career right at home.

"As I have said already, if you are a good doctor who produces quality treatment, then you do not need to go find a market for yourself but however, the market would come knocking on your door," he said.



Visiting Orthopedic surgeon Doctor Bharat Mody in Suva (Fiji) earlier this week