

"Medical professionalism; whose job is it?"

To answer this question we must first know what medical professionalism or competence actually is.

Professional competence is the habitual and judicious use of communication, knowledge, technical skills, clinical reasoning, emotions, values, and reflection in daily practice for the benefit of the individual and community being served.

Epstein and Hundert

Once we are clear in our minds that what medical professionalism actually is we move to the part that whose basically responsible? Who is the one who needs to hold all the pillars of medical professionalism? Is it a single person or a group of people?

To reach an answer lets logically travel through the possibilities. The first individual which immediately comes in our minds, on whose shoulders lies all the professional responsibility is 'the Doctor'.

I do not disagree with the fact that doctors need to exhibit remarkable professionalism. According to Maslow's pyramid of hierarchical needs doctors are held responsible for the fourth hierarchical need i-e self respect and self esteem. Doctor's professional approach is one of the vital components of medical professionalism but are they the only one who are responsible?

If our answer is in affirmative than I will like to draw your attentions towards a news which was lately circulating on social media that eight children died in the children's hospital due to non functional ventilators. This is just one news of its kind, there are many more. What do you think know? Can health care authorities be easily exempted from the responsibility of medical professionalism? Certainly not! They are another important pillar of medical professionalism which according to Maslow's triangle are responsible for the fifth and the highest need of self actualization.

But then does the story ends here? Of course not yet! Then who comes next in the line holding the responsibility of medical professionalism? Let's talk about medical students. They are also the member of the health system, is not it? The way they grow in the course of years with professionalism inculcated in them is of immense importance as they are the ones in whose hands lies the tomorrow of our health system.

Next comes the paramedics and the nursing staff. Yes the responsibility of professionalism is equally shared by them as well. There are numerous situations where unprofessional approach on their part

has proved life threatening for the patients. Both paramedics and nursing staff are on the front line of patient care: paramedics as the very first line of defense for a patient in an emergency medical situation and nursing staff as medical professionals with whom the patient interacts the most on daily basis and who work as assisting systems of the doctors. The paramedics are the providers of first need of maslow's triangle; the basic physiological needs and the nursing staff are the providers of the third need of maslow's triangle; love and belonging.

Yet another part of the health system which holds the responsibility of professionalism is the hospital administration which is the provider of second need of maslow's triangle; safety.

Before concluding I will like to add the views from the video of some delegates of GMC conference.

"I think its a combined effort, its quite a complex jigsaw puzzle where a number of pieces fit together to make us the good doctors that we are."

Dr JS Bamrah.

Medical

Director, Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust

"Great changes and great improvements are made by acting together,"

Ulvan Ozad

Medical student, Barts and the

London School of Medicine and Dentistry

"Well its obviously the responsibility of the medics but they will never achieve it in a solitary situation. They will have to partner with everybody else."

Professor Maureen Edmondson.

Chair, Patient and Client Council, Northern Ireland

Most rather almost all the delegates of the conference were talking about medical professionalism as a job of all the people associated with the health system, which if thought of is logically correct and makes sense. Thus in a nutshell health system will function efficiently if every single component is giving its maximum to it, which is only possible if the roof of medical professionalism is held and strengthened by all it's pillars because even if one weakens or shakes it will adversely effect the roof of medical professionalism; thus united we stand divided we fall.