

## **Category: Caricature June 2015**

**“Only one rule in medical ethics need concern you- that action on your part which best conserves the interest of your patient” (Martin H-Fischer)**

Another thought provoking issue is beautifully portrayed in this month's caricature sequence. Let's travel through the story events together.

Juni, Huni and Buni, the three young, talented doctors report at the hospital at 8:00am, as usual. There they have to fulfill their duty in the surgical ward. In the ward instead of examining the patients they sit behind the reception desk and indulge in useless talks, while other doctors are shown attending their patients.

As soon as the clock struck 9:00am, oblivious of their surroundings, they get busy in their so called tea-time period along with other paramedical staff on duty. At quarter past nine a patient leaning on the shoulder of his friend enters the ward while his brother rushes to the reception desk to fill patient's registration form and to collect the chit. The anguished patient is made to lie down.

It is 9:40am, the helpless patient lies there unattended, with his friend and brother consoling him while the doctors are enjoying their tea. At 10:00am the patient's brother loses patience and rushes to the reception desk where he asks for the doctors and reminds them of their duty. In response he has to face retaliation, insult and another long wait. It's 10:30am and still the patient lies in pain with no doctor to pay heed to him.

At quarter past twelve Juni and Buni take round of the ward along with a senior doctor but that particular patient remains unnoticed. It's 12:30pm but Juni and Buni still stand with their backs towards that patient while he cries in pain. At 1:00pm the patient's brother again comes at the reception desk to seek help. It is not until, when at 1:15pm Huni attends the patient checking only his pulse and heart rate. Finally the duty hours are over and the three of them return to their homes. Buni is enjoying lunch at his home when his sister falls from the stool and injures her leg, he rushes to her and immediately takes her to the hospital where with help of Huni he dresses her wound.

As soon as he is done with the dressing his conscience awakens and he ponders over the fact that how immediately he treated his sister but that poor patient was left untreated for such a long time. This very thought made him rush to the patient where he tried to mend his actions by apologizing and treating the patient with care.

While going through the story events we realize the fact that we all have been a part of this story at some point in our lives, is not it? May be as doctors or paramedics, or patients or patient's relatives or may be still just as silent observers standing in a remote corner.

Is tea-time more important than a patient's suffering? Of course not! Do you know that NHS staff is banned from drinking tea or coffee on the job because it looks like they are not working hard enough and are slacking?

Buni got a second chance but it is true that not everyone is lucky enough to get a second chance so avail your chances as they come your way. Be doctors you have pledged to become. Your patients are your responsibilities, do not turn a deaf ear to their hue and cry. Embrace them with open arms and apply all the knowledge, skill and talent you have acquired in your journey to cure them, to put an end to their agony and pain. And we all know how wonderful it feels to help others. I will like to end with a beautiful saying of Henri Amiel.

**“To me the ideal doctors would be a man endowed with profound knowledge of life and of the soul, intuitively divining any suffering or disorder of whatever kind and restoring peace by his mere presence.”**