

Twelve Months Subspecialty Training in Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus I: The Bangladesh Experience

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Background: Sub-specialization in Ophthalmology is gaining ground in Nigeria. The Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium;¹ funded by the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust² provides opportunities for clinical fellowships over a 5-year period from 2015 to 2019. Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute & Hospital, Bangladesh³ is the oldest and largest tertiary eye hospital in Bangladesh; and one of the collaborating institutions.

Objective: To describe my 12 months hands-on fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology and

Results:

Strabismus at a high volume private hospital in Bangladesh.

Methods: Trainee ophthalmologists rotate through four experienced paediatric ophthalmologists on a quarterly basis for one-on-one mentoring. Training was focused mainly on clinical and surgical skill acquisition with minimum targets set for each (Table 1). The initial period was mainly observation; then assisting and finally independent surgery/clinical patient evaluation.

LESSONS LEARNT FROM THIS FELLOWSHIP

1. Clinical and surgical skills are acquired by reading and apprenticeship; and honed by constant practice and training others.
2. Nigeria has the patient volume, and enough skilled manpower to provide ophthalmic subspecialty services and training for our

Table 1. Fellowship Targets & Achievements

S/No	Skill	Target number	Achieved No (%)
1	Paediatric cataract related surgeries		
	• Assisted/Partly done	60	99 (165%)
	• Independent	40	51 (128%)
	<i>{e.g. Continuous Circular Capsulorrhexis, Irrigation/aspiration, IOL implantation/repositioning (PMMA, foldable), membranectomy, capsular polishing, anterior vitrectomy, posterior capsulotomy etc.}</i>		
2	Horizontal squint surgery		
	• Assisted/Partly done	25	33 (132%)
	• Independent	≥10	36 (360%)
3	Probing & Syringing	80 - 100	152 (152%)
4	EUA + Refraction	50 - 60	67 (112%)
5	Cyclorefraction	>100	37 (37%)
6	Orthoptic evaluation	80 - 100	115 (115%)
7	Visual acuity in children	200	86 (43%)
8	B-scan, Biometry, Yag laser	As much as possible	32
9	ROP screening	2 weeks in Retina Dept.	Not done
10	Low vision clinic	1 week	Done
11	Others		
	• Dissertation	1	Done
	• Ant segment slit lamp photography		>25
	• Trauma surgery		19
	• Paediatric glaucoma session		4 weeks
	• Central postgraduate presentations		3
	• Departmental postgraduate presentations		6

people. However, we need to strengthen our health systems and institutions.

3. We can learn a lot from Bangladesh (and India) because we share similar challenges. We owe it to ourselves, our people and our sponsors to use our skills for the greatest good.

References

1. Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium. <http://cehc.lshtm.ac.uk/>
2. The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. <http://www.jubileetribute.org/>
3. Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute & Hospital. <http://islamia.org.bd/index.php>