

MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AND PROGRESS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN HYDERABAD CITY FROM 1846 A D TO 1948 A.O.- A REFLECTION

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In this paper a reflection of the important milestones and the progress of Medical & Health Services through the Modern Medical Department and the medium of Medical Science of Allopathy has been presented as it was promoted in the capital of Nizam's Dominions, i.e, Hyderabad city between 1846AD to 1948AD, with an aim to promote or improve the State of Health of the citizens. Hyderabad city was used as focal point to transmit the same to the other parts of Nizam's dominions. This period is an epoch making one in the exchequered medical history of Asif Jahi dynasty and Hyderabad city. The rule of the last four Nizams of Hyderabad namely Nasir-ud-Doula (1829AD – 1857AD) Afzal-ud-Doula (1857AD- 1869AD) Mir Mahboob Alikhan (1869AD- 1911AD) and Mir Osman Ali Khan (1911AD-1948AD) which corresponds to the period under discussion, saw royal patronage extended to the establishment of the Modern Medical Department and nurturing of modern medical and health service in Hyderabad city and other parts of their dominions. This was done through Allopathy. The Department rendered yeoman service in providing the best possible health care, through a well trained medical cadre and through a chain of well established modern hospital system and frequently addressing itself to specific medical problems and clearly adopting a well defined medical and public health policy changing it as and when needed to suit the requirements. This approach suggests that the Nizam's administration was not merely copying colonial models, but adapting Western science to strengthen state legitimacy and public welfare. Milestones in the history of the Modern Medical Department and the progress of Health services in Hyderabad City from 1946 A.D. to 1948 A.D, a reflection of which had a bearing on the medical history of Hyderabad City has been presented here in, Since the state of Health of citizens of any period speaks about the real progress this article covers an important part of

Telangana History which is related to Hyderabad City, which was the capital of Nizams Dominions.

In response to the desire of the fourth Nizam of Hyderabad State, Nasir-ud-Doula that the benefits of Allopathic Medical Science should reach the citizens of Hyderabad city and other parts of the state after being cured by it from his long standing medical problem of Miturition , by Dr. Maclean the residency surgeon on the advise of the British resident General Frazer in 1841 AD, the modern medical department and Hyderabad Medical school were established in Hyderabad city in the year 1846 AD. Dr. Maclean the residency surgeon was appointed as the Superintendent of the Hyderabad Medical School and Dr Templeton, was appointed as the Director of the Modern - Medical Department. Urdu language was used as medium of instruction in the school.

When the department was established in 1846 AD, it was officially named as 'Tibabath Arna" or " Shaheth Ama".

When the department was established it had two fold functions,

- 1) To manage the affairs of the Hyderabad Medical School and build a well trained a medical cadre and staff to be utilized in the dispensaries to handover the benefits of Allopathic Treatment to the citizens of Hyderabad city and later on to the citizens of entire dominions.
- 2) To introduce public health measures especially giving vaccination to the citizens against small pox and cholera at an appropriate time.

The Medical Department managed the affairs of the Medical School and prevailed upon the British resident to throw open the doors of Sultan Bazar Residency Civil Dispensary, to the citizens of Hyderabad city, so that they would be exposed to the benefits of Allopathic Treatment. This was accepted and in 1846 AD the doors were thrown open to the public. Likewise other civil dispensaries under the control of the British in Hyderabad city and military dispensary at Bolarum were made to open its doors to provide treatment to the citizens. Under the direction of the Government of Nasir-ud-Doula, the Medical Department consulted Dr. Maclean and an official order was passed specifying that the medical course duration should be set for 6 to 8 years and on completion the graduates should be given Hakims certificate. It was also decided to give the students of medical school practical training in Sultan Bazar Dispensary.

In the year 1853 AD the Medical Department successfully introduced vaccination against smallpox and cholera for the first time for the citizens of Hyderabad city, an important public health measure undertaken. In the same year the first batch of 16 medical graduates, who passed out of the medical school were awarded Hakims certificates and an order was passed by the department to utilize their services in the British control civil dispensaries with regular salary. The Medical Department felt the need to publish a Medical Journal under the supervision of the director of the school. Dr. George Smith, so that the Medical Graduates could use it as a medium to express views about local medical problems and remedies. The journal 'Risala- Tibiyat', was published in the year 1856 AD. It was printed on the Lithographic press of Nawab-Salar Jung on his personal request. The Nizam lauded the efforts of Medical Department and Dr. Smith. In the same year the Medical Department established Government Dispensaries in Hyderabad city called Shifakhanas.

During the rule of Afzal-ud-Doula, the medical department in the year 1862 AD in order to maintain the quality of Allopathic Education in the medical school on par with Madras Medical College, Medical Examiners were called in from that institution to supervise the exams. It was stated that the Hakims Diploma of Hyderabad Medical School should be treated on par with the LM&S Diploma of Madras University. In the year 1866 AD a Central General Hospital called Afzal Gunj Hospital, was established in Hyderabad city with inpatient and outpatient facilities. The hospital was named after its Chief Patron Afzal-ud-Doula, the Nizam of Hyderabad State. The hospital was inaugurated by Diwan Salar Jung. Free Allopathic treatment was provided in the hospital. Other dispensaries in city were placed under its control. The hospital was to work on the same line of that of Sultan Bazar Residency Civil Dispensary and the Civil Dispensary at Secunderabad, which had already been elevated to the status of a hospital by the British. The Medical Department also passed an order that the Superintendent of the Medical College should act as a Superintendent of Afzal Gunj Hospital. This hospital in due course became the main center of allopathic treatment in the city, to which even patients from the other parts of Nizams Dominions flocked to seek medical relief.

Even though the Medical Department was utilizing the services of the Medical Graduates in the Civil Dispensaries and Government run Shifakhanas with a supporting staff providing them with regular salaries there was no regular medical service. The need was felt to build a medical cadre after Afzal Gunj Hospital was established with the working control

over the dispensaries in the city. In the year 1868AD, when several modern reforms were introduced by the Diwan Sir Salar Jung, the Medical Department was revamped with the creation of a post of Deputy Director and a regular medical service of doctors and supporting staff with pay and service rules was introduced. Between 1868 AD and 1884AD the Medical Department was able to increase the inpatient and outpatient facilities in the chain of dispensaries which were under the control of the Afzal Gunj Hospital and vaccination facilities were provided to more people.

In the year 1884-85AD the Medical Department introduced the practice of maintaining medical statistics. By the end of 1885AD the Medical Department was able to establish 6 hospitals and 8 dispensaries in the city and suburbs and 48 dispensaries in the districts. The Medical Department under the Stewardship of Dr. Edward Lawrie in order to prove the efficacy of chloroform as an anesthetic agent in surgeries prevailed upon Mir Mahboob Ali Khan, the Nizam to give permission to hold Chloroform commissions in Hyderabad city. As the result of this the Medical Department conducted the commissions in 1888AD and 1889AD in Afzal Gunj Hospital. By playing host to the commissions the department was able to draw the attention of the medical world to Hyderabad. More over the Hyderabad Chloroform Cap, used to administer Chloroform as an anesthetic agent became famous in the medical world and efficacy of chloroform was proven. The Nizam advised Dr. Edward Lawrie to publish a report* on the

To be noted -Dr. Edward Lawrie was instrumental in changing the medium of instruction of in Hyderabad Medical School from Urdu to English in 1884-85AD.

Report was prepared by Dr. Edward Lawrie in 1894 AD and published in 1895 AD.

This was done after Dr. Mohammed Abdul Ghani & Dr. M.G. Naidu, the two graduates from Hyderabad Medical School traveled to England under Dr. Edward Lawrie and through experiments proved the efficacy of chloroform as an anesthetic agent through Hyderabad Chloroform method. The Hyderabad Chloroform Cap became famous commissions. Dr. Edward Lawrie saw to it that chloroform was used as an anesthetic agent in Government hospitals in the city since no side effects were found.

The department also established the Ameen Bagh Maternity Hospital in the year 1891 AD which proved to be a great boon to cater to the maternity needs of women folk of Hyderabad city Since the hospital was not able to cope up with the growing demand of the patients a separate Zenana hospital was established in 1891AD for Gosha Women,

under the Superintendency of Miss Edith Boardman The Medical Department under Dr. Edward Lawrie and Dr. P. Hehir brought out "Pharmacopoeia of Afzal Gunj Hospital", a handy guide of diagnosis for the graduates of Medical School.

In the year 1894 AD the Medical Department was responsible for establishing separate maternity section in Sultan Bazar Hospital for Gosha Women residing in and around Chaderghat and put under the charge of Miss Rupabhai Furdunji* This was a critical socio-cultural intervention, ensuring that medical modernization did not exclude women from the benefits of modern healthcare. In the same year the Medical Department under the direction of the Government sent two students of the medical school to England to demonstrate the efficacy of chloroform in surgeries through Hyderabad Chloroform Cap.

The first official measures to deal with plague were drawn up by the department in 1896AD and in the year 1897AD, the Director of Department was appointed as a Plague Commissioner and was given the assistance of two European Officers designated as Deputy Plague Commissioners. Sir Ronald Ross, the greatest benefactor of mankind who discovered the malarial cause at Begumpet on 25th August 1897AD, thus paving the way for the world to fight against the scourge of humanity is interesting. The way the department heralded the discovery of the cause after Sir. Ross, gave lectures about it with practical demonstrations in Hyderabad Medical School and Afzal Gunj Hospital on the invitation of Dr. Edward Lawrie drew the attention of the medical world to Hyderabad city. The department accepted the findings of Sir Ross, and drew upon his findings to draw a line of defence against Malaria in the city the first of its kind in the entire world.

In the year 1904AD a new office of the Director was completed and a new operation theatre, with all imported surgical equipments was established and added to the Afzal Gunj hospital. A special medical store was opened in the year 1906 AD to provide regular supply of medicine to the Govt. hospitals and general public at nominal prices. A vaccine depot was also inaugurated. In the year 1906 AD the Princess of Wales was invited to Hyderabad city to lay the foundation stone for a large hospital for Zenana women. The hospital was inaugurated in the year 1908AD and named as Victoria.

Miss Rupabhai Furdunji first trained women anesthetist from Hyderabad Medical School. Plague – An infectious disease caused *l* spread by bacteria causing high fever and delirium if untreated proving to be fatal. Usually spread by Rat fleas.

To be noted: Special Plague Center was established at Eranaguta in 1904-05, later it was shifted to a new hospital established in 1920-21 AD at Lingampalli, which came to be called as Isolation Hospital or Quarantine Hospital. To be noted: Medical Act was passed in the year 1904 AD.

Zenana Hospital . The Medical Department in year 1912-13AD created a public health unit keeping it under the control of the medical director who was also appointed as Sanitary Commissioner, with assistance provided by Sanitary officers and assistants drawn from civil surgeons and assistant civil surgeons. The State Medical Counsel was established in the year 1918-19AD for medical registration by the Government on the recommendation of the Department. By the firman issued in 1920-21AD, the department was responsible in converting the Hyderabad Medical School, into a college and naming it as 'Osmania Medical College', after its chief patron. In the year 1921AD, the public health unit was converted into a full-fledged 'public health department'. Between 1922-23AD a school was established in the city for training female and male nurses.

In the year 1924AD a new hospital was constructed over the site of damaged portions of Afzal Gunj Hospital since it was effected by the flood of 1908AD. It was named as "Osmania General Hospital" after its patron who inaugurated it in the same year. The Hyderabad Medical College was shifted to the old Afzal Gunj Hospital remaining portions in its premises in the year 1925 AD.

The Medical Department was instrumental in starting the special departments for plague and malaria between 1929-30AD. Dr. C.E. Chenoy and Dr. Khatri were appointed as directors' respectively. These were established with the aim of stamping out the problems of plague and malaria in Hyderabad city and suburbs. These departments played a stellar role in dealing with the problems and in due course bringing down its incidence. A leprosy cleaning was started at Dhulpet in the year 1930AD which was first managed by Dichapalli team and later on by the department. This was first concrete step towards extending aid to leprosy patients in city. The department was instrumental in starting the first "Infant Welfare Center" at Darulshifa in the year 1931AD to cater to the needs of the infants. This tradition made the department to open more centers throughout the city to provide prenatal and postnatal care and elimination of the use of untrained Dhais. In the year 1934AD the Public Health Department was merged with the Medical

Department and a new nomenclature was accepted i.e., "Medical and Public Health Department". In the same year the Medical and Public Health functions of the department were demarcated and a new Deputy Director was appointed to deal with the public health side. In the year 1940-41AD the department established the bureau of Epidemiology and Vital Statistics and the Bureau of Health Education for collecting statistics of epidemics and to spread health education respectively.

Sanction was given by the Government to establish a separate sanatorium at Anantagiri Hills near Vikarabad in 1941AD to deal with Tuberculosis. It was constructed and inaugurated in the year 1945AD and named "Anantagiri TB Sanatorium". The Prince of Berar inaugurated it on the invitation of the department. This was done since the arrangements made for T.B. patients was not adequate at Osmania and Lingampalli hospitals and Dabirpura Clinic in the city. In the year 1947 AD for administration convenience the department was divided into two branches and separate directors were appointed to handle it. One director was put incharge of medical side and the other director was put incharge of public health side. In the same year the department established a new bureau in the city to deal separately with Malaria, T.B, plague and the other contagious disease. The special plague and malaria departments established in 1920-30 AD were closed down since the incidence had come down and it was no longer a threat. In the year 1948 an Inspector General of Medical and Health Services was appointed for effective coordination of all the Medical and Public Health services in the city and other parts of Hyderabad State.

By the year 1948AD the city had 9 main hospitals and 13 dispensaries, the two main hospitals being Osmania and Zenana. In that year 28,630 inpatients were dealt with and 9,68,643 outpatients were treated. The expenditure incurred by the department was approximately 53,13,000. This may be taken as one of the yardsticks, apart from above-mentioned facts to prove that the Modern Medical Department by its sincere efforts was able to achieve most of its aims in providing the best possible medical relief through Allopathy.

The Medical Department in the span of 102 years of its working spread out between 1846AD to 1948AD was able to build an effective chain of modern hospital system and with the help of Medical Science of Allopathy was able to best possible medical relief with the support of the best possible nurtured medical cadre. In the journey

the yeomen service rendered by the towering personalities whether British or Natives and the royal patronage extended by the last four Nizams of Asif Jahi Dynasty cannot be overlooked. The effective way the department promoted and managed the Modern Medical and Health Services in the city in particular and in the other parts of Hyderabad after 1948 AD reflects the importance of this epoch making period. This era effectively transformed Hyderabad from a traditional capital into a pioneering center of Allopathy, creating a public health legacy that was distinct from the models seen in British-ruled presidencies like Madras or Bombay.

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