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Medical University: A Necessity

Sir,

This refers to your editorial of June 16, 89 under the heading "Magic of Words". I agree with your apprehension that just renaming the Medical Colleges as Medical Universities may not have effect on medical education, but it has become a necessity, and the changeover may give a chance to have further improvements on medical education. (In this connection I beg to say that a high standard of medical education is still being maintained in Bangladesh. Bangladesh produces quality graduates as evidenced by their performances both at home and abroad.)

Under the present system of administration, all the functions of the medical faculties are done by the teachers of the medical colleges and the universities have the privilege of publishing the examination results. And for this the university administration takes months. The last examinations for example, (2nd and 3rd professional MBBS) were over by 7-6-89 and the Examiners submitted their marks by 8-6-89, but the results cannot yet be published for want of Tabulation Sheets. (University Administration is not being able to print the Tabulation Sheets

for disturbances in the University campus). Once the Tabulation Sheets are received the Tabulators will take 3 to 4 days to compile the results, and then the Result Sheets will have to wait sometimes 2 weeks to get the approval of the Vice-Chancellor (as the Vice-Chancellor does not always become available), after which the Controller of Examinations will take another week to publish the result (if there is no disturbance in the campus). Had there been a separate Authority dealing with medical examination, University disturbances would not have affected the medical affairs (unless the disturbances would have been of general nature involving all the institutions in the country), and the examination results would have been published in time.

What I mean to say is that administrative responsibilities of Universities have become too large and deserve decentralisations i.e. separate Authorities for the different disciplines. (This was not true say 20 year ago). In fact in most countries of the world medical institutions work independently as a constituent part of a University.

To refer to your medical correspondent's assessments that there is no suitable medical personnel in the country to hold university posts, I beg to say that similar blasphemy we heard during Pakistani days "Bengalees are not suitable for responsible post," and to his dismay Bengalees are now running the administration of a sovereign state. Medical personnels are no worse than their counterparts in other fields (at least they were not in their schools and colleges), and for information of your correspondent I may add that there are sufficient medical manpower in Bangladesh to run ten Universities.

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