



Authors:

- ▶ Dr Madahvi Natrajan, South London Surgical Resident Doctor,
- ▶ Dr Grace Hillsmith, Trust SHO in Medicine, STSFT;
- ▶ Dr Christian Tang, EX-F2 STSFT;
- ▶ Dr Prachi Rabade, Anaesthetic Registrar, Walawalkar Hospital Medical College and Hospital;
- ▶ [Dr Sarang Puranik](#), Consultant in Anaesthesia and Pain Management, Kingston Hospital, UK;
- ▶ Dr Sanjay Deshpande, Consultant in Anaesthesia and ICM, STSFT

Since 2006, a team of healthcare professionals from the UK have been visiting BKL Walawalkar University Hospital in Dervan, India.

Each year they undertake an annual camp. As UK anaesthetists in training, it was inspiring to engage in and experience work at BKL and to get exposure to the volume and variety of the surgery.

It was impressive to observe a strong working ethos among members of the local surgical team, and we also noticed that the residents were highly engaged in preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care of the patients attending this year's camp.

The hospital is located geographically between Mumbai and Goa – each almost 250 km away. BKL is a multispecialty hospital and has now got state-of-the-art equipment and facilities needed for the care of the local population. It is well established, and it was obvious that the local staff and the UK team have developed a partnership for implementation of changes in the delivery of healthcare.

The patients who attend this hospital are from a mostly tribal and farming community, often arriving at the hospital with late presentation and with varied and complex co-morbidities. These patients are from impoverished and poorly educated backgrounds.

Since this hospital is located in a remote place, it has developed excellent networking, with dedicated and committed physicians and surgeons working in urban areas who regularly visit this place at weekends. This allows the hospital to triage and admit patients needing surgery prior to their visit. Although the routine work is performed by local residents and senior staff, complex cases are managed too, and advice by telephone is obtained from visiting team members if needed.

So what did we aim to achieve at the camp?

At the local faculty, there was an opportunity for us to introduce medical students to OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination). This method of assessment has been used for testing factual knowledge in the UK medical examination.

It was challenging to provide information on medical education theories, how to conduct OSCE, and how to provide objective feedback to students following their examination. We noticed that their current style of education was didactic, and that they had no exposure to other forms of teaching. We thus provided training in education – interactive, group sessions, simulation, workshops, etc.

The pilot OSCE offered following this training was a good start for their faculty in our year's camp.

We also offered educational opportunities to medical students on basic physiology, interpretation of clinical investigations and imaging, and conducted a basic intermediate life support resuscitation course. It was attended by 600 medical and allied health professionals. Sessions were focused on teaching communication skills, team working, and a structured approach to assess and manage acutely unwell patients. These sessions taught us how one can maximise the utilisation of resources in LMIC.

We are proud that our camp, like previous ones, offered training and guidance to all anaesthetists in training. This was pivotal in building the concept of safe perioperative anaesthesia management in patients with co-morbidities who are undergoing surgery. The local residents and consultants were also given training in various ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia blocks. They got exposure to the Royal College of Anaesthetists' and Association of Anaesthetists' standards and guidelines, this contributes to improved care and patient safety.

The annual BKL camps demonstrate excellent partnerships developed between the UK and BKL Walawalkar Medical College and University Hospital, which provide excellent training opportunities to UK and local anaesthetists in training. trainees.

If you would like to get involved in this project, please contact any of the doctors involved in the project in the list given above. These camps are held in the months of January and February every year. Information can also be found on our [Opportunities for Anaesthetists](#) page and [Walawalkar Hospital website](#).