

OSMANIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

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The Hyderabad Medical School which came into existence in 1846 A.D. was the fore-runner of Osmania Medical College. The medium of instruction was Urdu the degree was Hakeem. Last two decades of nineteenth century was the glorious period of this school. Seventh and the last Nizam of Hyderabad Nawab Mir Osman Ali. Khan established Osmania University in 1919 A.D. and in the following uyear the Hyderabad Medical College. In 1957 A.D. Hyderabad became the Capital of enlarged Andhra Pradesh. Tremendous zeal and enthusiasm was evident to achieve alround progress in medical education. Medical Education, Research and health care of the people are vastly improved by the presence of medical college and teaching hospital in any area and in an atmosphere of medical research. This is true of Hyderabad also.

Fourth Nizam of Hyderabad Nawab Nasirud-Dawlah fell ill Probably he was suffering with Diabetes in 1842/43 A.D. and he did not recover for quite some time under the treatment of Unani Hakeems, as all the people in Hyderabad had belief in Unani Medicine and no one practiced Allopathic Medicine here before 1846A.D. Mr. Fraser the then British Resident in Hyderabad recommended treatment of the ailing Nizam by the Residency surgeon Dr. William Campbell Maclean . He treated the Nizam by adjustment in his daily diet, without any medicine, as the Nizam wanted that, he must be cured without having to eat or drink any Allopathic Drug. The King followed the diet schedule as prescribed by Dr. Maclean and recovered within a period of three months. The western system of medicine, thus appears to have gone high in his estimate and so, he ordered for the establishment of the medical school in Hyderabad. But, for one year no student came forward. The matter was reported to the Nizam, then as per his order ten candidates were sent to the school by shamsul Umra Bahadur on Monday, 27th Ramadan, 1262A.H , The students of the first batch trained by Dr. Maclean appeared in 1852-53, for a final examination by a committee of three medical officers. The standard adopted was a high one ,and Fasli 1330 was the end of an old era and the beginning of a new one in the history of the Medical School. In this year, the Hyderabad Medical School was converted into a college by a Firman of the Seventh Nizam and designated as the Osmania Medical College.

The students who were admitted from the year 1920-21 were after a final examination awarded the diploma of L.M.&S. instead of diploma of Assistant Surgeon and L.M.P. instead of Sub-Assistant Surgeon. After the retirement of Dr.B.J.Singh in 1923, Dr.Khaja Mohiuddin was the principal of the College from 1924 - 1926. In Fasli 1335 i.e. October 1925 - 26, the syndicate and the University Council decided to take over the college from the Government by making certain recommendations. The faculty of medicine was constituted with 15 members. In the next Fasli 1336 the College was transferred to the University. The 1st MBBS class was opened with Urdu as medium of instruction in place of English.

Major Farhat Ali was appointed as Principal in 1926. 19 students were admitted in the 1st year class. The Principal drew attention of the University to the urgent necessity of providing separate building for the institution and the provision of lecture theatres, laboratories, and play grounds. The construction of the Osmania General Hospital was completed and wards of the Afzalgunj Hospital were transferred to the new palatial building in 1926. In the course of the next two years there were additions in the staff. Later, to provide sufficient accommodation for the college, the entire building of the old Afzalgunj Hospital was made available for the use of the college. The school had grown into a college, and affiliated to the University after 80 years of struggle, hard work and creditable achievements of successive Superintendents and Principals and members of the staff. Recognition by Royal college of surgeons of England for primary F.R.C.S. and recognition of Indian Army Medical Department for admission to the commissioned rank were received in 1941. After Hyderabad state becoming the part of the Indian Union in 1948, the medium of instruction was changed once again from Urdu to English. The Indian Medical Council recognized the medical degree of the Osmania University, from 1951. Government of Hyderabad took the administration control of the Medical college from the University in 1952 and an officer was appointed as head of the college and the hospital. In 1953 M.B.B.S. degree of Osmania University was recognized by the Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Punjab Universities for Postgraduate studies. In 1954 Postgraduate studies were started in Osmania Medical College under Osmania University and the students were admitted for MD & M.S. courses. The number of admissions to the college gradually increased from 50 to 80 and then to 100. Postgraduate course in several other disciplines of medicine were also inaugurated in 1958 and super specialty courses between 1971-1978. Finally, the problem of accommodation was solved by laying foundation stone for the new building of the Osmania Medical College in Residency compound, by the then Chief Minister Dr. B.Ramakrishna Rao, in October 1956, and inauguration of the new building of Osmania Medical College in 1962 by the then President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. The College admits 200 undergraduates, 162 postgraduates and 14 students for Superspeciality every year. The major hospital affiliated to it is the Osmania General Hospital. Besides, this, the college also has several other affiliated hospitals where undergraduate and postgraduate training is imparted. Osmania Medical College thus probably has the largest affiliated bed strength for clinical training of its undergraduates amongst all medical colleges in India. The affiliated hospitals are listed below with their bed strength in parentheses.

1. Osmania General Hospital (1200) formerly known as Afzalgunj Dawakhana.
2. Government Maternity Hospital (800), formerly known as Victoria Zenana Hospital.
3. Niloufer Hospital for women and Children (400) also known as Institute of Paediatrics.
4. Mehdi Nawaz Jung Cancer Hospital (250)
5. Sarojinidevi Eye Hospital (550)
6. A.P. Chest Hospital (670)
7. Quarantine Hospital (400) also known as the Institute of Tropical Medicine and popularly called Fever Hospital.

8. Government ENT Hospital (75)

9. Hospital for Mental Diseases (600) ,also known as Institute of Mental Health.

10. Sultan Bazar Hospital for Women(130) formerly known as the British Residency Hospital.

The College has a rural health centre also at Patancheru (50 beds) in Medak district set in the sylvan environs of the former Nizam's summer palace. The humble medical school, a joint end years of the Asifjahi dynasty and the British Government has become after a period of 125 years a mighty Institute of Medical Sciences, in the service of the Independent India.

Osmania General Hospital: is one of the oldest hospitals in India located at Afzal Gunj, Hyderabad and is named after its founder – Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last Nizam of Hyderabad. It is run by the Government of Telangana, and is one of the largest in the state. The present hospital building **was completed in 1919** on orders of the last Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan. It was designed by British architect Vincent Jerome Esch and Nawab Khan Bahadur Mirza Akbar Baig in Indo-Saracenic style. In 1926, the wards of the Afzal Gunj hospital were transferred to the new building ,This landmark of Hyderabad merits an independent chronicling of its history. It can be divided into three phases.

1. Establishment of Darush-Shifa.

2. Construction of the Afzalgunj Hos pital,

3. Construction of the present Osmania General Hospital.

The present magnificent high-domed building of the Osmania General Hospital was built in 1925 by Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan, the seventh and last Nizam of the Asafjahi dynasty with an initial bed strength of 450. The hospital is situated over an area of 27 acres on the bank of the river Musi, with the high domed splendor of the state High Court on the opposite bank providing a captivating architectural harmony.



Osmania General Hospital In Hyderabad

At the end of second world war, the Central Military Hospital was released for civilian needs and therefore the first hospital devoted to specialities was established to relieve the congestion at Osmania General Hospital. This is the present Sarojinidevi Hospital for eye diseases. This experiment was successful and so a number of other hospitals of specialties, such as Niloufer hospital for Children, M.N.J. Cancer Hospital and E.N.T. hospital were established. Later the Government upgraded the Maternity Hospital, the Hospital for Chest Diseases, Mental Hospital and Fever Hospital etc. These measures helped considerably, to relieve congestion at the Osmania General Hospital and in early diagnosis and institutionalized treatment and advancements of various specialties. The State Dental College and also the Nursing college are located in the premises of the Hospital. Now the bed strength of the hospital totals 1200, with the free of cost treatment for patients in the general wards and nominal fee charged for the paying wards. In the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad more patients are attended to each year in this hospital than all other hospitals combined'. Later many talented doctors from here went to U.S.A., Canada, U.K. etc. under various training programmes. Similarly costly equipments were procured with the financial assistance of agencies like W.H.O., UNICEF, Rockefeller foundation, T.C.M.(U.S.A.I.D.) Nuffield Foundation, CARE etc. There is no doubt that Osmania Medical College will march into 21 st century with its head holding high and Its glorious history will inspire many generations of medical student of the Institute for many years in future.

Reference : 1) [Osmania General Hospital gasps for attention: Heritage building crumbling, roofs caving in](#)". *The Times of India*. Retrieved 24 July 2018.

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