



Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyay, The Unsung Indian-Bengali Hero

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India is the brain hub of the world's scientific research. When it comes to Indian science, how can one forget the contributions of Bengal, and Kolkata? If you calculate the number of Nobel prize winners from India, you will find an astounding majority of them are connected to Kolkata. Dr. CV Raman was highly connected to the Indian Association of Cultivation of Science [IACS], Kolkata where he did the major work which brought him the Nobel Prize in 1930 [1,2]. In 1917, he was appointed to the Palit chair of physics at Raza bazar Science College, University of Calcutta [1]. Yet surprisingly, many researchers in Bengal were unrecognized and didn't receive their deserved fame. Their work sang but they were unsung. In this editorial, we try to know about one such legendary Indian Physician-Doctor who hadn't received the proper recognition he deserved.

Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyay was an extraordinary Indian Physician Researcher who was born on 16th January 1931 in Hazaribagh, India [3]. At the University of Edinburgh, he did an extraordinary work on hormones. Title of his thesis was, "Some Observations on The Biological Assay of Gonadotropic Hormones". You can read the full thesis PDF from the following link present at Archives of University of Edinburgh [4]. Before him, there was no great way to detect the levels of this hormone, but his remarkable work in this field opened many avenues for which he also received his second PhD. He is famous for India's first and world's second In Vitro Fertilization [IVF] work. One must have seen the movie "Ek Doctor Ki Maut by Tapan Sinha", which was based on the life of Dr. Mukhopadhyay.

He created Durga, India's first IVF Child [3rd Oct 1978]. One should know that Dr. Mukhopadhyay's work was better than the work of Dr. Patrik Steptoe and Dr. Robert Edward, who created the world's first IVF [3]. Let us discuss why this is so. Dr. Mukhopadhyay implanted the fertilized ovum in the next cycle and not that cycle in which he had taken the unfertilized ovum. The capacity of acceptance of the endometrium of the uterus and the quality of implantation is better in the second cycle or the next cycle. The British doctors had implanted it in that very cycle, where the rejection rate or failure rate is higher. Next, Dr. Mukhopadhyay had used FSH hormone stimulation by which he had produced a good number of matured follicles which was preserved for further use. He brought the concept of cryopreservation for storing the ovum for many years.

This is the novelty of Dr. Mukhopadhyay's work and currently his method is globally followed. His process was highly impactful and widely accepted by the scientific world.

For the last couple of months, we are researching on him and his work which makes us understand that he had worked in a very limited setup and resources. But he had been able to do something which no one had managed to do before him. And yet how many people know him and his work? "In the 5th grade when I was taught about great Indian Scientists, I wasn't taught about him. Why? In my entire school life, I have never read about him anywhere in the course. First in class 12, 2015 I heard about him from my father. A simple question comes here, WHY?": Dattatreya Mukherjee.



Figure a

Dr. Subhash Mukhopadhyay [Source: Wikipedia].

The fact of the matter is that the doctors of his time and the administration were negligent about his work, moreover jealous of his success. They reprimanded him and falsely proved his work to be fake. This jealousy ultimately proved fatal as it not only killed his work's recognition but also forced him to commit suicide on 19th June, 1981 in Kolkata; his suicide note stating "I can't wait every day for a heart attack to kill me". One must wonder, had the state government of the time understood the significance of his work and his colleagues been appreciative of his success, the scenario could have been very different. It's truly a failure on part of the doctors as well as the administration of the time.

Later, Dr. TC Anand Kumar stated that Dr. Mukhopadhyay is the India's first discovered of IVF. Dr. Kumar is that noble person, who was the whistle Blower for this scientific development. He stated that "Not me, it is Dr. Mukhopadhyay who had created India's first IVF". Following this, finally the consequent state governments gave Dr. Mukhopadhyay his due share of recognition and gradually the whole country is recognising him. England recognized him before, then gradually India and the whole world.

We hope that in the future, we get to see India's largest IVF centre on his Name and that it be made in Kolkata. Over the course of our research, we have watched multiple YouTube videos, but two notable ones are provided below which is recommended to be watched by everyone.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzXdpznUwNE>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty_BZ5MC0E4 [In Bengali, but a must watch as it's a detailed documentary on him].

We express our gratitude to Late Dr. TC Anand for identifying the unsung genius and we want to end this editorial with a quote to ponder on, "Jealousy is an inner consciousness of one's own Inferiority. It is a mental cancer" By BC FORBES.

Conflict of Interest

Nothing to declare.

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None.

Bibliography

1. Wikipedia profile of CV Raman.
2. Website of IACS.
3. Wikipedia of S Mukhopadhyay.
4. Archives of University of Edinburgh.

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