

Meet the expert

Title: Voice from the frontline of cancer care in South Asia: An Expert Perspective



*Prof. Dr. Syed Md.
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Interview with
Prof. Dr. Syed Md. Akram Hussain,
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Interview taken by
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*Dr. Farzana Binta
Rahman*

Dr. Farzana: What was your inspiration for choosing clinical oncology and motivation to work in this field over 25 years?

Prof. Akram: This field appealed to me because it sits at the intersection of science, technology, and humanity as well. I was inspired by the thought of transforming lives by evidence-based medicine while contributing to progress of a rapidly evolving specialty. I wanted to empower every trainee, cure patients and strengthen the system for the nation, this motivation kept me working

Dr. Farzana: As we all know, you have established several cancer departments across the country, for example, Northeast Medical College, Khaja Yunus Ali Medical College, BMU and also worked at NICRH, what was the biggest challenge?

Prof. Akram: Multiple challenges like lack of required expert manpower, limited resources with infrastructure and bureaucratic complexities. Perhaps the greatest challenge was what? transforming ambition into sustainable systems.

Dr. Farzana: Sir, what is your opinion about the relationship between clinical oncology and medical physics evolving in Bangladesh?

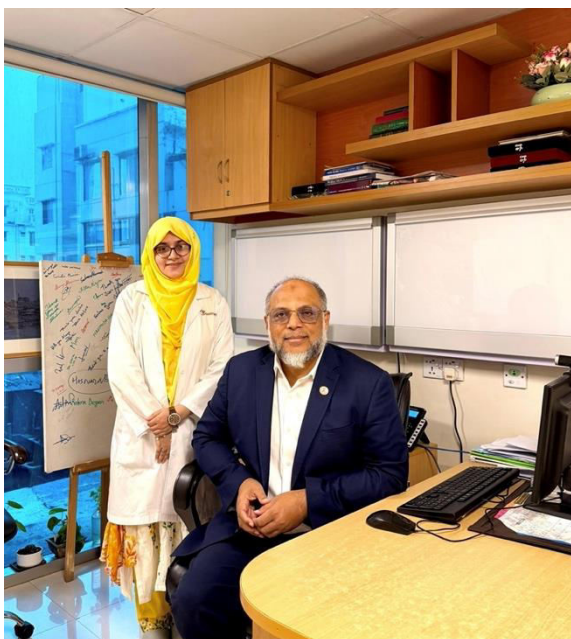
Prof. Akram: This is interestingly intertwined. Modern radiotherapy requires technological sophistication, and medical physicists are inseparable partners in ensuring precision, safety, and innovation

Dr. Farzana: What do you think about artificial intelligence in cancer care for low- and middle-income countries like us?

Prof. Akram:

Dr. Farzana: Sir, what advice would you suggest to young oncologists and medical physicists in South Asia?

Prof. Akram: AI has the power to become most useful innovations in the history of cancer care. As we face resource constraints, AI can offer diagnostic accuracy, optimize planning and expand expertise needed. But technology alone cannot be a solution. If we can augment human resources by AI, then we can accelerate the process in LMICS.



Dr. Farzana: What is your vision or goal for cancer care in South Asia over the next years ahead?

Prof. Akram: 1st, pursue knowledge ,2nd cultivate the practice of curiosity, 3rd build a team i.e., multidisciplinary collaboration, 4th contribute to research and finally mindful practice of empathy. Because technical expertise earns professional recognition but compassion, honesty, integrity and service define a true health care professional.

Dr. Farzana: Thank you, sir, for your time

Prof. Akram: May Allah bless you.