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ORTHOPAEDIC COLLOQUY

Colloquy is defined in the Merriam -Webster dictionary as

1. Conversation, Dialogue

A colloquy between senators

2. A high-level serious discussion: Conference

A colloquy between the trial judge and the defendant

The Cambridge dictionary defines it as a formal conversation



Let me start the ball rolling by asking the question-

What is the vision we have, as the orthopaedic and trauma fraternity of this country, as to what we would like to achieve in the delivery of an orthopaedic and trauma service to our Country?

What factors do we need consider? What data do we need to have in order to make a pragmatic plan?

Table 1. Population and land areas of the SAARC countries ^{1,2}.

Country	Population (2023)	Land area (Km ²)
India	1,428,627,663	2973190
Pakistan	240,485,658	770880
Bangladesh	172,954,319	130170
Afghanistan	42,239,854	652860
Nepal	30,896,590	143350
Sri Lanka	21,893,579	62170
Bhutan	787,424	38117
Maldives	521,021	300

The Population and land areas of the SAARC countries have shown in table 1. As can be seen from a practical point of view, excluding Nepal and Bhutan which pose unique challenges of their own, we have the lowest population and the smallest land area among the SAARC countries.

How many orthopaedic surgeons should we aim at having? How many orthopaedic centres should we have?

India has over 10, 000 orthopaedic surgeons registered with the Indian Orthopaedic Association and it is estimated there are another 10,000 or so not registered with the

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association. At the time that this data was gathered the population of India was estimated at 1250 million. i.e. 1 orthopaedic surgeon for 62,500³. i.e. 1.6 per 100,000.

According to the census in USA⁴, the highest density of Orthopaedic surgeons is in New England states -11.9 per 100,000 and the lowest is in West south Central divisions -7.55 per 100,000.

Currently our SLOA website⁵ has 118 members registered in total from the inception of orthopaedics in this country. If we round this up to 100, currently we have 0.5 orthopaedic surgeon per 100,000.

How realistic is to extrapolate data from another country to ours?

What should our aim be? What factors should we consider in coming to a decision?

Sincerely hoping for a fruitful discussion...

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Attadīpā Viharatha

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- Timely discussion of the dhamma is most propitious

(from the Maha Mangala Suthraya)

References

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