

# Smileys of first MBBS....

Gawande Sushil<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, NKPSIMS&RC, LMH, Digdoh Hills, Hingna Road, Nagpur-19.

[sushil.gawande@rediffmail.com](mailto:sushil.gawande@rediffmail.com)

## **Abstract:**

Humor is an inseparable part of human life. Humor in education is not an exception to this rule. Humor in the system of education is deliberate or spontaneous Learning medicine without humor is beyond imagination. We interacted with many medical students and teachers and tried to explore humorous incidences they have experienced during first year of MBBS. As expected, most of the experiences were revolving around anatomy and dissection hall

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Humor is an inseparable part of human life. Humor in education is not an exception to this rule. Humor in the system of education is deliberate or spontaneous. Many teachers deliberately use humor in teaching to make the learning more interesting. Many a times it happens spontaneously. Spontaneous or deliberate but humor is remembered for long. Many a times it is remembered even if we forget the topic taught. There are many great personalities who talk about the humorous incidents they experienced as a student and as a teacher.

Medical curriculum is very vast. Learning medicine without humor is beyond imagination. As an exercise for this journal, we interact with many medical students and teachers and tried to explore humorous incidences they have experienced during first year

of MBBS. As expected, most of the experiences were revolving around anatomy and dissection hall. No doubt, even we have experienced many such incidents during our under graduation.

In most of the medical colleges, dissection hall is the common place for humor and mishaps. It is anticipated by all students as a place of great learning experience. There are many students who react differently than expected and then that becomes a memorable humorous incident. I was talking to one of the teachers in anatomy about the first few days in dissection hall. He told me that in every batch there are few students who faint immediately at the sight of cadavers. Few students faint because of the intense smell of formalin. The humour in these tragic situations is that in some colleges, due to inevitability of the phenomenon, some junior teachers are designated the task of catching the falling students and taking care of them especially during the first few weeks in the dissection hall. As a rule, one who faints first is remembered till the end.

As students settle down in the dissection hall, new adventures begin. Invariably few clever students are seen busy mislabeling some muscle tendon as some artery. When teachers take the round, they try to reconfirm their diagnosis of some great artery. When teacher says it's a tendon and not an artery, excitement is taken over by embarrassment. At that time, those students were interested bystanders fell then step up and give their expert comments "we knew that this was not an artery".

One young teacher told me that cadavers are not distributed according to gender of the students but many a times students rearrange themselves according to the gender of the cadaver. It is difficult to explain this psychology. But for teachers it is very difficult to understand and funny as well.

During first MBBS, we believe some facts which are really foolish. I remembered many of my friends who expected that blood will gush out of the cadaver after the incision. We were all prepared to save our aprons when we gave the first incision.

I distinctly remember that night in the hostel when I suddenly got up with a nightmare involving a cadaver. There must be many medical students who had such nightmares. During first MBBS, bone viva carries a lot of importance. For most of the students, all carpal and tarsal bones are same in the beginning, different at the time of examination and same after examination throughout the life unless they join orthopedics. In contrast to that, one bone which remains in the memory for long is femur as by and large someone uses it in the hostel during some fights. One, who experiences the force of femur, will remember the strength of it forever.

There were many teachers in anatomy using humorous examples while teaching histopathology. Bed sheets and table sheets were frequently used by them to make us understand epithelium. There were many more who would help us understand the beauty of histopathology slides by giving various examples. It's a different thing that we never realized the beauty of those slides till we passed out the first MBBS examination.