

EDITORIAL

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Tariq J. Alam, MD (D-2005)
Editor-in-Chief

“Service is Human” - These golden words are inscribed in the minds of every Dowite, those fortunate enough to have gone through the rigorous training of healing and care within the rustic boundaries of Dow Medical College and Civil Hospital Karachi.

The beauty of this statement lies in the fact that humanities ultimate goal is service. Service defines humanity.

Service is to contribute or serve or help with no intention of receiving any recognition or remuneration in return. Service is not just towards the poor patients of Civil Hospital or the people of Karachi but service should be to the population as a whole. Service not only encompasses taking care of patients and transferring skills and knowledge or doing voluntary work, but service, for a lifelong student of Dow also means to contribute to the benefit and progress of the alma mater.

DOGANA is the largest medical alumni of medical students from Pakistan. Dowites are serving as competent physicians in all disciplines of medicine all over the US. They serve in large academic institutions, in community hospitals and even rural areas. They are entrepreneurs, researchers, clinicians, teachers and community leaders. They are the backbone of the healthcare system of the US. With all the combined knowledge and skill, Dowites in the United States are in a unique position to ‘serve’.

Service for Dowites outside of their clinical skills should start at the level of the alma mater. An organized approach as provided by DOGANA is an ideal forum to truly instill the motto of Dow in the service of the institution and the students who are currently studying there. Not just medical knowledge but valuable experience can be transferred to future graduates who will benefit with this guidance.

Many alumni in the US question the need for DOGANA and the purpose it serves. We hear statements that “DOGANA is a friends group”, or “a social club” or “DOGANA is nothing but showoff and glam and glamor for rich doctors”. While these may be valid perspective, the fact remains that DOGANA is an organization. An organization doesn’t have brains or ideas itself. An organization is as good as the people who run it or are involved in it. If you get visionary individuals with a sense of service then that’s what the organization becomes.

So the onus to change the direction of DOGANA or to make it more relevant lies on each one of us. It lies in the sense of purpose and the sense of service that is ingrained in every Dowite.

Many individuals think that having a position is vital to ‘serve’. But the fact is that a position is just a title which is not necessary to ‘serve’. This is exactly what the motto of Dow taught us that to serve requires just our humanity and our willingness. Even without any title, one can be associated with DOGANA and can lead and inspire and work on projects that matter the most.

In the same quest, those who question the very need or basis of DOGANA should be respected. They should be respected for their concern and care. Their criticism should be taken with a sense of concern to better the organization and make it a representative forum for diverse ideas and mindsets. Debate, questions, concerns and criticism should always be encouraged as it leads to progression and promotion of ideas. This keeps the organization relevant in the face of new challenges.

I would request the younger generation of Dowites to come forward and to be involved in their alumni association and contribute to the success of DOGANA in whatever way they can. Once we do that, we would truly be living the motto of our beloved Dow Medical College - Service is Human.

Tariq Jawaid Alam, MD
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