Caring, chaos, conflict - a cinquain

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Poet’s Note:
Poetry can illuminate the artistic side of medicine. It allows one to express oneself and fosters creativity. The views one espouses about phenomenon in medicine can be succinctly expressed through poetry.[1] It lends clarity to the expression of one’s experiences and emotions.

Cinquain [cinq (French) = five] is a form of poetry that uses a five-line stanza. Each line is made up of a certain number of syllables in the following order: two, four, six, eight, and two. The first line introduces the subject, which is then described in the next three lines of the stanza, and the cinquain ends with a reference to the subject again. I chose this poetic expression for its simplicity and its ability to convey the message crisply.[2]

Violence against doctors is a global phenomenon.[3,4] In India, it has assumed alarming proportions. This poem highlights the myriad of factors at play in precipitating the violence. Public hospitals in India are overcrowded and understaffed. Equipment are faulty and many vital investigations are not available.

To add fuel to the angst against doctors, is a faulty belief system. It is believed that malpractice is rampant, and that doctors in public hospitals are deliberately derelict in their duties. The recent physical violence against an intern in Kolkata is testimony to this trend. Large scale protests by doctors, including a nation-wide strike, has brought the issue into the limelight. Such patient behavior is highly condemnable and needs to be curbed immediately.[5]

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Clins
Overcrowded
Doctors, nurses scurry
Wretched place for the sick
Chaos...

Patients
Rustic, Naive
Pleading, Wailing, Fuming
Desperate for cure
Helpless...

Doctors
Resource hit
Persevering, Struggling
Lifesavers against odds
Copers...

Talking
Short, Curt
Incoherent, inept
Telling briefly, confusingly
Lacking...

Conflict
False Notions
Impatience flaring
Diverging expectations
Wanton...

References


