

University Hospital Dhulikhel, Kathmandu, Nepal www.schoolnet.or.jp/hospital

The Dhulikhel hospital was built with help of various associations aiming to improve the medical care in Nepal (NepaliMed). It was opened in 1996 by the now deceased king Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and his family. The hospital was founded following the strong commitment of physician Ram Shrestha, who was born in Dhulikhel and educated in Austria and who had lost his mother during his childhood due to the catastrophically poor medical care in his region. He therefore felt it was his calling to change the situation in his hometown region. Along with the hospital's main purpose of offering high-quality medical care to the needy Nepalese population, education and professional development of future physicians also became a main focus.

Meanwhile, the "Dhulikhel Medical Institute" offers five different degree areas of study, and talented but poor, young Nepalese - mostly coming from remote areas - are offered the chance to educate themselves. This education is also accredited in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. This clearly shows the high standards that the hospital has now achieved.

Ram Shrestha comments: "We treat people, regardless if someone is rich or poor or, what also plays an important role in a politically controversial state like ours, to which political party the patient belongs. No one is rejected. We already had for example, injured government soldiers in one room and injured rebels in the room next door to them.

However, we consider providing medical education as an almost larger responsibility for us. There is a lot of catching up to do in Nepal. The more people we train, the better. In areas where we have trained midwives, the death rate of births has been reduced by a third."

"We especially appreciate the easy use of the WolfVision Visualizers. It is important that the lecturer can concentrate on the medical procedures, rather than concentrating on how to operate the presentation equipment."

Founder Dr. Ram Shrestha (seen right) is convinced:

"WolfVision's Visualizers are an enormous help for us in medical education."

"... the units are in use about 60-70 hours a week and have been for several years".



Using the Visualizer to teach future hospital personnel about human organs.

The possibility of saving pictures on the PC also represents an enormous advantage for the hospital staff. With this feature, medical procedures can be repeated at any time or images can be provided to one of the six outer stations. "With our so-called "health posts" we also ensure medical care in remote areas and save patients long and strenuous journeys to Dhulikhel", says Mr. Shrestha.

"By means of the internet, we can consult with our medical colleagues in Europe or at the university clinic in Katmandu in order to conclude a safe diagnosis. An enormous advantage is that we can receive second opinions in only a few minutes or discuss critical cases with other medical professionals.



Larger groups of students can be taught in courses because the Visualizer can display 3 dimensional images magnified onto a screen.

"Sometimes the staff also use the Visualizers for difficult diagnoses of symptoms or X-rays. Here, the lightbox is extremely useful for viewing large sized X-rays.

"We particularly like the latest portable model with 30 pictures per second. The mounted turntable, the highly versatile arm and the zoom wheel allow us to record the operating room and patients in it" says Dr. Ram Shrestha.

"Generally we face the same challenges in medical education and training as other medical schools: the ability to train as many people as possible. Thanks to the Visualizer's image presentation onto a large screen, bigger groups of people can take part.

However we can also explain to parents what is wrong with their child by pointing out the diagnose clearly on the x-ray and also discuss which treatment is planned."

"When we go into medical details, things like high resolution, clear grey gradations and realistic colors are very important elements for training and diagnostics. The WolfVision Visualizers fulfils all of these requirements", concludes Ram Shrestha.

Dhulikhel hospital has now grown to become the largest employer in the district of Karve. With over 300 staff members, 50,000 ambulatory treated patients, 700 births, 5000 surgeries per year and the hospital's university has already had its fifth year of graduates - it has become an essential institution - and this, in a country that ranks among the poorest in the world, where medical care is concerned.