

Indian connection in Nobel Prize

Dear Editor,

Kumar seeks avenues for Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to an Indian researcher in his article published on 16 December 2022 in the Journal.^[1] The Editorial may spur a young resident to pursue a career in high-end work which may culminate in finding the coveted prize. The writer describes the way medical-education infrastructure is expanding in this era and the framework is broadening the base of the pyramid on which some top-notch work may be produced. As the Nobel Prize is awarded for fundamental research,^[2] it is obvious that incubation-period between establishment of the healthcare institution and its reward is likely to be long. But that fact should neither discourage us in pursuit for excellence nor should deter us from our determination to go that extra mile.

Nevertheless, in this context let us recall our contribution to this prize in the recent era. Besides Har Gobind Khorana^[3] and Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman^[4] in our times, there has been groundwork in India which got recognition from the Nobel Committee and I want to underscore that here. Two of the winners of 2019 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, surfed Indian villages to earn knowledge and conducted their randomized trials to discover what works and what not.^[5] Their work includes interventions to know the factors which increase vaccination rates in hinterlands.^[6] Here is the result of one such study they conducted in rural Rajasthan which tells us how to spread wide coverage of immunization.

Satyendra Nath Bose (1894-1974) predicted existence of a subatomic-particle which give matter its mass and that was named Boson (derived from his family name). 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics went to Peter Higgs and Francois Englert^[7] and that was given for its actual discovery at Large Hadron Collider—the largest ever man made machine. Bose with German Scientist, Albert Einstein, worked on a theory about its existence and the process consumed several decades to yield results.^[8] As the prize is not given posthumously, the Indian scientist was not given this recognition, nevertheless it becomes a source of inspiration to have this attachment with him.

Angus Deaton, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences in 2015, made several astute observations about poverty in India and his work got recognition of the Committee.^[9] We were among a handful of countries who were successful to make COVID

vaccines.^[10] Our generic drugs helped several African countries to control AIDS epidemic.^[11] So, while cutting-edge research in Medicine or Physiology in some areas of basic-science may be at an initial stage around; our workers from inside and outside contribute for furthering the cause of science and welfare of society and that gets honor of the Nobel Committee as well. When Martin Luther King junior -an American civil rights activist -got Nobel Prize for peace in 1964, his biographical describes in third paragraph that his operational technique were taken from (Mahatma) Gandhi.^[12] If one looks through this angle, we need to keep our spirits high, maintain the tempo, don't need to lose our patience and continue to work-hard inside and outside the laboratory.

Soon one of us may be there!

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