

THE MAKING OF AN INDIAN PSYCHIATRIST

A research proposal on the construction of Indian Psychiatrists' professional identity

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The development of Psychiatry in India has been marked by a growing cultural gulf between its mental health professionals and their patients. Patient and community beliefs about mental illness, including help seeking behaviour and treatment options have been extensively studied. However, a systematic documentation of the culture of psychiatry and ethnographic research on the social process of local knowledge acquisition by Indian trainee psychiatrists remains absent. This research proposes to examine historical and contemporary themes in relation to this chasm by focusing on the training of psychiatrists in India. Notably, it will focus on how the identity of Indian psychiatrists is constructed, including how their knowledge and values are formed, contested, resisted, sustained and operationalised through their clinical practice.

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