

HOPES DASHED, HATRED TRIUMPHS

Sir, — This has reference to the news story on the attack on junior doctors at the Manipal Hospital. More brickbats than bouquets seem to be coming the doctors way, rendering them more vulnerable than ever. Even a minor lapse is blown out of proportion nullifying the enormous amount of good work done by them.

This is not to say that doctors do not sin, but more often they are sinned against. When the doctors' service falls short of expectations, the public does not like it. If a person inflicted with a serious disease does not show improvement, doctors are promptly blamed, without realising the fact that the disease itself is to blame.

The high hopes of people in modern scientific medicine, the communication gap in emergency situations between the doctor and patients' kin, and the fact that emergency treatment is invariably rendered in isolation, the kin not being witness to the doctor's struggle, lead to further confusion and suspicion. It is time doctors and public took a realistic view of medicine and cultivate trust and respect for each other.

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