

**PRO-Media Coordinator's Office  
Jamia Millia Islamia**

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Press Release

**JMI researchers part of international team to study problem of cleft lip effected children like 'Pinki'**

Two faculty members of Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia Millia Islamia(JMI) are in a six member team of experts from India and the United Kingdom universities to carry out a research project on the children effected with cleft lip under SPARC-UKIERI project.

The project entitled "Evaluation of cleft care outcomes of non-syndromic unilateral cleft lip and palate(UCLP) patients at ages 5,12 and 20 across India: The Cleft Care India Study".

Besides Dr. Panchali Batra, Indian Principal Investigator(PI), and Dr. Deborah Sybil, Indian Co-PI from Faculty of Dentistry, JMI, other members of the team are Dr. Deepak Nanda, Indian Co-PI, Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Badri Tiruvenkatachari from the University Of Manchester(International PI) , Dr. Mohit Mittal (International Co-PI) from The University Of Sheffield and Dr. Ahmed El-Angbawi from the University Of Manchester.

Initially, SPARC-UKIERI approved a grant of Rs. 40 lakhs (approx.) which has now been hiked by another Rs. 12 lakh for the prject that is to be completed in next two years.

The study aims at evaluating the standards of care for non-syndromic UCLP patients at a national level which would help to develop a standardized protocol for treatment that can be accepted nationally.

Cleft Lip and/or the Palate (CLP) is the most common form of craniofacial malformation in live births. This affects 1 in 700 newborn, and as a result, between 27,000 and 33,000 children in India are born with clefts every year. It is an area of pivotal concern in the National Oral Health Program as Cleft lip and palate can be a life-threatening abnormality causing major aesthetic, functional and psychological problems in the patients.

With such high incidence and the need for complex care for these patients, the care in India still lacks standardized treatment protocols. The lack of knowledge and resources results in unacceptable delays in seeking and receiving adequate medical care, due to which, many infants with CLP die of malnutrition or infection.

Launched in 2018, the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) is a unique initiative of the Government of India to build a new vision and new approach to education, the MHRD has initiated creation of a new collaboration ecosystem through SPARC.

United Kingdom India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI) started in April 2006 with the aim of enhancing educational links between India and the UK.

The problem of cleft lip got highlighted when in 2008 Megan Mylan directed a 39 minute documentary 'Smile Pinki', the story of a poor girl in rural India whose life transformed after her cleft lip was corrected through a free surgery. The documentary in Hindi and Bhojpuri had won 81<sup>st</sup> Academy Award for Best Documentary.

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