

From the Regional Medical Officer, U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh

"I had the privilege of seeing the Kailakuri Health Care Project in February of 2012. I am the physician for the United States Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I had heard about Dr. Edric Baker's work in the village of Kailakuri, and wanted to see his system of training local people with limited formal education provide cost effective, compassionate care to their community. Dr. Baker has devoted many years to his goal of creating a health care system that is sustainable, reliable, cost effective, and culturally sensitive. The Kailakuri Health Care Project under Dr. Baker's supervision has trained many 'paramedics'-a term we use in the US for a certain level of formal training in emergency medical care, but in this case, it signifies a staff member who can handle most common medical issues. The paramedics get their training from Dr. Baker, and other senior paramedics who have been with the organization for years. They base their treatment plans on a treatment manual, created by Dr. Baker, which used algorithm based protocols for common ailments. The paramedics can handle the majority of the patients themselves. I was surprised to learn of the very high incidence of diabetes in the community. The standardized care plans have allowed the diabetic patients to learn about the role of nutrition and exercise in managing their disease. In the US, most diabetics have access to a glucometer which measures the blood sugar using a very costly medical device and reagent strips. This device is unaffordable to the members of the community. Dr. Baker has his patients use a very inexpensive alternative. They are provided a chemical solution, costing pennies per month, which is mixed with the urine to yield a color which indicates the blood sugar range. It is accurate, inexpensive, and helps the patients learn to control their disease. The Kailakuri Health Care Project prides itself on its inclusiveness across all religions and ethnicities. I participated in a spiritual service which included Muslims, Jews, Christians, and Hindus all under one roof, joyfully singing prayers and reciting religious passages. All people are welcome to come to the Kailakuri Health Care Project and the community spirit of acceptance was quite moving. Dr. Baker's system of utilizing local resources and working within the limitations of a developing country to provide effective health care can be held up as a model for sustainability. I admire his devotion and encourage others to contribute to his most worthy cause." Bob

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