

Doctors without borders help over 30L

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BENGALURU: A radiologist with a degree from Yale and no job is unheard of. But for Dr Arjun Kalyanpur, this was the turning point in his life. A graduate from AIIMS, New Delhi, the doctor had moved to the US. He returned to Bengaluru after a decade in 1999, but without a suitable job. "I continued to teach at Yale and travel to the US during this period," he said. In late 2001, he got a request from a US hospital to analyze medical reports. "To begin with, I had one computer, a transcriptionist and myself. Reports were coming from the US and I used to analyze sitting from my home," recalls Dr Arjun. Today, Teleradiology Solutions that operates out of Whitefield has over 500 professionals, including radiologists who work for the US, African countries, Singapore and other nations. The company has helped over three million patients so far. The journey began along with his paediatric cardiologist wife Dr Sunita Maheshwari. The duo was one of the pioneers of teleradiology in India way back in 2002. Their company today offers teleradiology, telemedicine services, tele-teaching to hundreds of multi-specialty hospitals across the world and also caters to India's villages. The doctorpreneurs analyze over 2,000 patient records, including MRIs, X-ray, ECG and reports, every day sitting in their office. The couple prefers to call themselves "accidental entrepreneurs". "We are surprised by our success. We were never aiming to be entrepreneurs," says Dr Sunita, Chief Dreamer at Teleradiology Solutions. Dr Arjun has an equally interesting title - Chief Pusher. "Nothing happens unless you push and dream about it," the couple adds when asked about the quaint designations. "There is acute shortage of radiologists across the world. In states like Assam and Jharkhand there are no teleradiologists and the work gets outsourced to us," says Dr Arjun.

They witness thousands of human interest stories everyday. Dr Sunita recalls the case of a six-year-old from Philadelphia, who had patterns of rib fractures on the chest. "It was a clear case of child abuse. There were old and new fractures. We alerted the doctors there," she adds. There was another case of a 35-year-old lady from Boston whose ovaries were twisted. If untreated it could have turned septic. The lady was operated soon after we sent the reports," says Dr Arjun. A typical day begins with a 6am morning walk for this medico couple, who have a 17-year-old daughter Alisha, a Bharatnatyam dancer, and Adil, 14, who represented India recently at the Road to Wimbledon campaign. "The daughter is keen on studying medicine. And the son is all for tennis. We encourage them to pursue their interests," they add.

Study reports, get massaged!

Hours together before the computer and reading medical reports can be a pain in the neck, literally. To resolve this, the founders have employed an inhouse masseur, who does neck and head massages daily for employees.

Their favorite:

Food: Typical Konkani food like gusshi, sasam to jowar, bajra rotis. They grow their own vegetables. Organic milk is a must for the family.

Movies: Life of Pi, Mughal-e-Azam, Argo

Books: Timeri Murari's Taj, The Elephant Catchers by Subrato Bagchi, Ram Guha's India after Gandhi, and fiction by Charles Dickens and Somerset Maugham.