

## Book Review

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The title of the book "THE DOCTOR AND THE LAW" reflects the state of the things today on the scenario of medical practice in India.

Not long ago, the knowledge of doctors about the law was restricted to the "jurisprudence" subject in second MBBS. A graduate of medicine never utilized this aspect of his knowledge in his life unless he became a CMO or an Orthopaedic and Trauma surgeon.

With the advent of different laws and legislatures like consumer protection act and prevention of pre-natal diagnostic tests (PNDT) acts along with the Supreme court judgment in 1978 bringing hospitals under the purview of Industrial disputes act, a host of labour related and other acts became applicable to hospitals.

Now with this, a doctor starting small nursing home on his own, having no or poor legal knowledge whatsoever started becoming the target, knowingly or unknowingly of such laws and law-enforcing authorities.

One can not plead ignorance in the court of law and so it became mandatory for all the hospitals and nursing homes to equip themselves with legal knowledge. I will strongly recommend that the acts like PNDT, CPA and MTP should be incorporated in the syllabus of MBBS.

This book edited by Dr. Rajendra Abhyankar and published by Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association of Kolhapur aims at enlightening the doctors community by making the legal information available in this handbook.

The book is exhaustive in its inclusion of almost all laws and statutes applicable to hospitals and I am delighted to see the laws are given in full and not just in summary. Different sections such as "Doctor-patient relationship" and practical knowledge about how to and where to information is most useful.

I am confident that this book will be of immense help to the Doctors, the hospital administrators and lawyers as well.

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Extract from Foreward - *The Doctors and The Law.*

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