



*Dr Ashok N. Johari Shares his experience of nearly 4 decades in Paediatric Orthopaedics*

**Dr Ashok Johari**  
*One of the most Revered Teachers and One of the Senior most Paediatric Orthopaedic surgeon in India. Dr AN Johari has inspired an entire generation of Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeons across the country. This interview is an attempt to gain an insight into this unique journey of Dr AN Johari.*  
*He is currently the Director of The Enable International Center for Paediatric Musculoskeletal Care*



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## Dr Ashok Johari - A Unique Journey of a Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon- Part I

*The Price of Greatness is Responsibility*  
 – Winston Churchill –

This interview with Dr Ashok Johari (ANJ) was conducted in Hotel Le Meredian. The interview was conducted by Dr Sandeep Patwardhan (SP) and Dr Ashok Shyam (AKS) on the second day of Pune Orthopaedic Society Annual Meeting in Pune, India.

The purpose of this interview is to know more about the journey of Dr Ashok Johari who is a pioneer in paediatric orthopaedics in India and in the world. This interview aims to catch a glimpse of his life and times and also showcase the rise of paediatric orthopaedic as an independent faculty in India. A broader objective is to attract people to paediatric orthopaedics and to have pride in our own people who have done exceptionally well in reaching international acclaim in respective fields.

**AKS:** Let me begin by asking you about your family background. Tell us something about your family and where you grew up?

**ANJ:** My father, Dr. N.K. Johari was an anaesthetist and my mother was a house wife. I was the only son among four daughters. One of the big aims of my father's life was that we should be very well educated. He was a disciplined person himself and was particular about our studies and felt that we should do well in our exams. Not necessarily get first rank, but should get good education. He also focussed a lot on our extracurricular activities. One routine which is very interesting, which I would like to share. I had school weekly off on Thursday and my father insisted that I be with him on that day. He would go to different hospitals and take me with him to operation theatres (OT). He would want me to simply watch what is happening. I have these memories right from my age of five when I would stand on stools and watch surgeries in operation theatres from morning to evening. If on Thursday he didn't have OT, he made sure that I was involved in some or the other work like washing the car, servicing the scooter etc. Everything had to be cleaned in the cars, carburettors had to be removed and cleaned. This helped me learn discipline from an early age.

My family was of medium means, though two generation ago we were quite rich. Our family were Jagirdars from Bikaner in Rajasthan. Once the Jagirdari went away, we were jewellers to all the princes of Rajasthan and South India. However somewhere things went wrong and by the time my father was young, most of the wealth had disappeared and my father had to work very hard. So I always had great respect and appreciation for him. He came to Mumbai for medical education and then stayed back here.

I was a sickly child specially bronchitis. Sometimes I used to get status asthmaticus and my father used to give me deriphylline drips, oxygen, everything at home. This also brought me in contact with doctors other than my father and that is the time I decided to become a doctor.

**AKS:** In fact our next question is on the topic of how did you decide to become a doctor, how did you get the inspiration?

**ANJ:** My father was my first inspiration. Visiting OT's and watching surgeries over the years