

Vocation in Vacation: A visit to a Diagnostic Lab

I recently visited a diagnostic lab named Medline Diagnostic Lab located in Snehapuri colony, Nagole which is run by Dr.Venu. It is an NABL (National Accreditation Board for Laboratories) accredited lab. I visited the lab to learn about different techniques used for the diagnosis of various diseases. I took permission to enter the lab a week ago and I was given a scheduled date. On that day, I entered the lab and reported at the reception. A lab technician (Ms.Rajitha) was assigned as a guide to explain to me about the lab. For the first one hour, she explained to me about the various ways in which the lab functioned. Then a patient entered the lab and enquired about the various tests performed in the lab. He selected some particular tests and then it was time for blood drawing. The technician asked the patient to sit.

First she placed a tourniquet above the elbow of the patient. Then she took out a sterile syringe and located the vein and then drew 2ml of blood. She filled up a TRF (Test Requisition Form) which consisted of the patient's name, age, gender, number of tests to be performed etc. Then I learnt about drug sensitivity tests and culturing of microorganisms in microbiology division. Then came blood grouping. A technician (Ms. Shilpa) explained about different blood groups and how it is conducted which was the most interesting part. I observed different slides under a microscope. I also learnt about parts of a compound microscope practically and how it is used which I had learnt theoretically in my primary classes. Later, I was shown various devices like cobas e411, cobas c311, beckmann access2, horiba cell counter, biorad D10, centrifuge, bio safety cabinet and many more which is used for analysis of various biochemical and hematological parameters.

I observed the functioning of these devices practically. Then I met pathologists, doctors and technicians who were working in the lab. It was fun to know about different professions, about operating systems, devices and most importantly about drawing blood from patients and blood grouping. There were different sections like biochemistry, hematology, microbiology and pathology. It was very informative, helpful and enlightening, talking to different pathologists, doctors and technicians. At 1600 hrs it was blood report releasing time. All the reports were web-based and online. I observed it carefully when a technician (Ms.Meena) was releasing a report. All the devices were fully automated and networked. Majority of the equipment was interfaced with bar-code system. There was minimal manual intervention resulting in minimal manual errors. I stayed there till evening, thanked everyone for their valuable information and then returned home. At home I narrated my experiences to my parents. It was indeed a joyous day filled with a lot of information and fun. I am full of bliss that I have learned something innovative and useful in this fun-filled summer vacation.

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