



Mahad Mehmood with his parents after the squint correction surgery at a hospital in Bangalore on Tuesday.

## Karachi boy undergoes eye surgery in city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** Healthcare in the city for Pakistanis is proving to be an attraction. If it was cardiac care for baby Noor Fathima, it's ophthalmic care for young Mahad.

An eight-year old boy from Karachi, Mahad Mehmood, has undergone a squint corrective surgery at the Narayana Nethralaya here.

The surgery, performed on July 4, involved delicate micro-surgery to alter the position of the eye muscles. Briefing reporters on the procedure, Dr Arun Sampathi said contrary to general perception that squint was a sign of good luck, it altered vision permanently. "The first eight years of life are called the critical age and if the squint is not corrected then, there could be permanent damage." He added that squint eye affected 1% of the country's population permanently and that the phenomenon was called 'lazy vision'.

The boy's father, Razack Mehmood, when asked why he had to travel all the way from Karachi to Bangalore for an ophthalmic surgery, said he did not know of surgeons specialising in squint correction at Karachi.

"Healthcare is not very evolved in Karachi," he said.

**Mahad's father Razack said he is happy with the cost of operation in Bangalore. But it was not a pleasant experience for his family to get visa clearance in Delhi. They faced hardship despite his wife, Jameela, is a native of Bangalore.**

Besides, the cost of the surgery, according to hospital authorities, stands at Rs 15,000 which the parents felt was reasonable.

**Visa complications:** Mehmood expressed his displeasure at visa delays and the complications involved in procuring the same. "For everything we have to go to the consulate in Delhi. After applying and producing all the papers, we had to wait for 40 days to get visas," he said. This despite the boy's mother Jameela, hailing from Bangalore. Mahad is the youngest child of the couple's four children. The boy will require to be in post-operative care for a while and will need hospital care for a fortnight, apart from regular follow-ups till he is twelve.

▶ THIS WON'T DO

Here's his shelter sans roof!