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Context: The war in Sri Lanka started thirty years ago roughly at the time of the Jaffna Medical School (JMS) establishment. Due to the war, physical resources were low in JMS compared to all other medical schools in Sri Lanka since JMS is located in a war-affected area. Setting: Many strategies were used by JMS to maintain education during this period such as: getting assistance from the medical community 'link to Jaffna' to train students, keeping very close relationship between the students and the faculty staff and keeping students physically close to school. Higher motivation among students as well as faculty staff was observed during this difficult period. Objectives: This study compares the availability of faculty staff, clinical training facilities of JMS and the quality of graduate produced by JMS with other medical schools in Sri Lanka. Design Number of Faculty staff and students of each medical school were compared. The size of the clinical training facilities were compared using bed capacity of hospitals attached to the medical schools. A merit rank list prepared for whole country on the basis of students' performance at the final examination was used to compare the quality of graduates produced by each medical school. Results: The proportion of JMS graduates in the first half of the merit rank list is high when compared to Ruhuna ( $p < 0.05$ ), Peradeniya ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and Kalaniya ( $p < 0.0001$ ) medical schools. Availability of professors, associate professors, senior lecturers and lecturers were comparatively low in JMS. Faculty students

- staff ratio was very high in JMS compared to all other medical schools. Considering the number of beds, JMS has smaller clinical training facilities than all other medical schools. Conclusions: JMS produced 'better' graduates while having very limited resources during the war. This study challenges the well accepted understanding that resources improve the quality of graduate produced by a medical school.

Key-words: medical school in crisis; war; low resource