

Problems of Medical Education in Pakistan

Prof. Syed Muhammad Awais

In Pakistan, few emerging factors and issues have challenged standards and systems of medical education. The major factors include followings;

1. Opening of large number of new medical colleges over a short period of time has resulted in lowering of the teacher to student ratio. (The medical teacher number has not grown in accordance with the number of job opportunities).
2. The deficiency of constituent teaching hospitals with new private medical colleges has lead to less satisfactory clinical teaching and training of students.
3. Many new medical colleges do not offer on campus accommodation for faculty and students, thus such medical colleges do not have appropriate campus life which is essential for role modeling of medical students.
4. Many Pakistani students are returning from other countries with MBBS qualification, hoping that they will be accepted and licensed to practice in Pakistan. Due to several reasons including, language of instruction and low standards; a large number of these students could not pass PMDC exami-

nation. Thus despite spending a lot of foreign exchange of the country arranged by their parents. These medical graduates are unable to take part in health care delivery systems in Pakistan.

5. Globally, the Subject Based Medical Education in annual system has been replaced with System Based Medical Education in Semesters and Modules. Since most of new Medical Colleges do not have fully operational hospitals and faculty in clinical subjects; in this situation the practice of modern system based curriculum is not possible.
6. It is well established concept that the standards of Health Care Services are closely related to the standards of medical education. Without improving the standards of medical education it is not possible to improve standards of health care services.

It is hoped that policy makers of medical education at Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and all Provisional Governments of Pakistan may take appropriate steps to improve medical education and health care services in the country.



Prof. Syed Muhammad Awais

(Sitara-e-Imtiaz)

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