

From Chief Editor

Medical Education Then and Now

Looking back over the last fifty years we see a sea change in medical education across India. This change is good or not? "That's a moot question. Fifty years ago, Medical colleges were few and far between. Admission was based on merit, in the pre-professional examination. Postgraduate education was based on merit in the final MBBS examination. Aim was to produce Indian medical graduates who can fit into the family physician role. He was expected to acquire competency to carry out opd and provide curative and preventive services. He used to know everything about something. Nowadays, newer graduates are studying MCQs and rapid revision to crack NEET. In-depth knowledge is missing, even clinical skills are missing. what kind of Indian Medical Graduates we are producing?" Students were knowledgeable and skilled graduates. With the introduction of the entrance examination, we had interns neither good at theory nor practical skills. This happened because of learning MCQs by heart over the weekend and doing away with clinical postings. They had more faith in coaching classes than their teachers. We are seeing a steady decline in the standards all across the country. Who is responsible for the decay in the system? "...a question to debate. The remedy according to me is educational reforms. CBME is a welcome thing in that direction. The exit exam faced a lot of resistance but NEXT1, and NEXT2 will do a lot of good to our healthcare system. Acquiring skills and competencies during internship is definitely a welcome step. We need to inculcate the research attitude with substance and encourage research during studentship and internship. Publishing articles and presentations of posters will do a lot of good for their research aptitude. While evaluating UG and PG students, OSCE, OSPE, OSLER, 360 degrees assessment, DOPS - direct observation of professional skills, PEER assessment tool, and miniCEX and case vignettes are the methods comparable to Western education. The recent Covid pandemic has taken a toll on our education system in general and medical education in particular. Students by and large, like traditional teaching to understand pathogenesis, but prefer small-group teaching for practical skills. eg NRP, biopsy procedures, hands-on training like IV catheter insertion or ICD insertion This will evolve our system to international standards and Indian medical graduates will be able to participate globally and earn laurels for the country.

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