

The importance of medical research.

Being a 2nd Year undergraduate MBBS student and following the conventional methodology of studying medicine, the exact procedure of writing down a prescription is still not known to me. We are probably taught that in the 3rd Year because clinical exposure begins in that year. However, it is interesting to note that the University of Health Sciences, Lahore, has taken the initiative of changing the orthodox method of medical teaching and is even working on to introduce the advance Problem Based Learning (PBL) methodology that is prevalent in the West.

The video shown not only reflects the great dilemma that we are facing i.e. abundance of not very well-trained medical practitioners, but also highlights the importance of carrying out a research with a large sample size. Research is key to exploring new horizons and at the same time it digs into the problems common in the society. As far as medical research is concerned, it helps not only in studying new diseases, but it also helps in estimating the professionalism of all the people who practice medicine, be it doctors, dentists or nurses.

The facts and figures shown in the video clip are very alarming, especially considering the fact that the sample of the research included registered doctors, overlooking the popular concept of people preferring to get checked by a 'hakeem', or in other cases, by a quack. It is very disturbing to know that professionals lack the ability of writing a proper prescription which clearly reflects a problem in the application of knowledge that is taught in our medical colleges.

In order to improve this, several suggestions can be put forward e.g. :

- Revision of the syllabus for undergraduate medical programmes.
- Greater emphasis on clinical practice rather than blind learning.
- Evidence based teaching to inculcate the importance of conceptual learning.

On the other hand, medical research for undergraduates should be greatly encouraged, particularly after keeping in mind the agility with which research is being carried on in the developed countries.

Medicine is an ever evolving subject. We need to reform medical teaching and practice in Pakistan. In order to put it in Darwin's way: "*Survival of the fittest*". If we are to survive in this highly competitive world, it is crucial that we excel and keep pace with the revolutionary changes taking place all over the World, and especially in the West.

The particular clip focuses on only one province of Pakistan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and does not mention about the state of medical practitioners (physicians in particular) in the other provinces which together form more than 70% of the total population of the country (source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Pakistan). Further research can be of significant importance in this

regard and can further dig into the plight of the application of knowledge gained during undergraduate programmes. In order to prevent all the shameful figures conveyed through the research in the video clip, all the important suggestions mentioned above should be looked into by the concerned authorities.

I hope that a time will come in the near future when maximum number of patients will be satisfied by their doctors.

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