

'Recent Advances in Health Professional Education' **Seetesh Ghose ***

Medical teaching is a demanding and complex task. It has progressed from simple class room teaching to advance simulator assisted training. This has brought reform in the continuum of medical education for student and for the faculty training them. Expansion of medical education is not only to attain excellence in education but also for maximum improvement of health, and relief of suffering within available resource. So it is essential for the present day teacher to be aware of and become part of far reaching changes that are taking place in medical education. The changes are: shift from conventional role of teacher, changes in learning styles, innovative curriculum models and changes in assessment philosophy, methods and tools.

In an attempt to bring the modern concepts of education nearer to the medical colleges and their faculty a seminar was organised by Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth in collaboration with Medical Education Unit of MGMCRI, Puducherry on 19 July 2013.

The objectives of this seminar on health professional education were to provide participants with the knowledge skill and academic ground necessary to work professionally within the environment of medical education. By the end of the course participant were expected to

- Understand the recent development that has taken in the curriculum and how theories of learning improve practice in medical education.
- Develop knowledge of the major policies governing the medical education.
- Understand the principles of teaching learning methods within medical education.
- Develop an understanding of assessment of curriculum design, evaluation and feedback methods within medical education.
- Understand how to integrate advancement in computer with the medical education in teaching Web 2 generation.

This seminar was attended by 206 participants, who are directly or indirectly involved with the medical education from different parts of Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The objectives were translated into practice by the use of Didactic short presentation, Plenary sessions the speakers were doyen in the field of medical education. Besides short and interesting power point presentations, the resource person shared their experience for the better understanding of the various topics. They also clarified the queries raised by the participant. Their active participation and sharing of experience made this event more vibrant. The seminar was evaluated using programme evaluation form. The questionnaire involved the subjective assessment of the quality of the program, the usefulness of the subject and general comment. This program was accredited by 10 seminar credit point by Dr. MGR Medical University, Tamil Nadu.

First let us review the integrated system of healthcare. It starts with prejudice carried by a patient, the doctor and the society. A sick patient, who lives a chaotic lifestyle, wants to get well quickly, turns to modern medicine to help him. He loses his core value of quality healthy life. The doctor shifts priority to treat symptoms only. The patient recovers, the society endorses the process. So it seems that all is well. On the other hand, traditional systems of healthcare like AYUSH, music therapy, acupuncture etc., also have an equal claim in disease and healthcare management. There are strengths and weakness in modern medicine as there are in above mentioned systems of healthcare practices. One system can be complimentary to other. However, in reality, we have lost the articulation of life process and healthy living by disconnecting ourselves from an integrated system of medicine. This is like the black and white keys of a piano. You take the right combinations, it is a musical harmony and so is one's health. If so, why is this not happening.....?

Truly, not to the extent expected because of rigidity in the beliefs and undue haste carried by the practitioners and the public, lack of scientific understanding and publicity. When one can complement the other system, let us accept it. What is a magnet without opposite poles? We need to connect the disconnected systems of healthcare. One best way to do is to scientifically generate an "Evidence-based Complimentary System of Healthcare". A system of healthcare

complimented by evidence-based clinical practice and research will help us move from discord to harmony.

Second, research in a healthcare scenario is again prejudiced as a 'not me' or 'why should I' category. It is not just about a physician or surgeon or a scientist but disciplines in healthcare. A virologist doesn't care about music therapy or a surgeon has 'nothing to do' with what a chemist does. It has nothing to do with the spirit of the faculty but isolationism and priorities. The message that a university cannot be fit without innovative research is lost. What the university can do is to create a microenvironment to reflect scientism intellectualism and the philosophy of evidence based complimentary system of healthcare. How can this be done?

Again connect the disconnected departments, disciplines by a common mechanism to focus on sustaining the core values of the university and thereby the society. Let us move from discord to harmony. This would unveil the 'wholeness' behind the university's mission.

Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth is committed to achieve this goal. In this effort, SBV has already made landmarks in a unique and innovative way. This issue of Annals of SBV publishes its achievements in integrating allopathy and traditional system of medicine. Sanjeevita 2013, is an innovative effort by Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth and Central Inter-Disciplinary Research Facility promoting 'Current Concepts in Integrative Medicine' that brought together all disciplines and systems of medicine together with one common focus – 'Patient First: Quality Health for All.' This issue also covers SBV's achievements in bringing yoga and music therapy as integral part of patient care and well being. All put together, one can experience this innovative concept of modern and traditional healthcare services provided to the public by Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth based on evidence-based research and practice.

The editors thank the Chancellor Shri M.K.Rajagopalan for promoting integrative medicine and his unconditional support towards organizing Sanjeevita 2013, supporting evidence-based research in Central Inter-Disciplinary Research Facility and Center for Yoga Therapy, Education and Research.. Our sincere thanks to the Vice-Chancellor Prof.K.R.Sethuraman and Dean (Research) Prof.N.Ananthkrishnan for their encouragement and cooperation in making this happen.

We are happy to bring out the deliberations and the write ups submitted for the event as a special issue for the 'Annals of SBVU' for wider dissemination and readership.

To carry forward this effort Medical Education Unit is planning to organize workshop on 'Objectivising the Evaluation Process' in the month of July 2014.

* Dr.Seetesh Ghose, MS
Coordinator , MEU, Professor & Head
Department of O&G, MGMCRI
Pondicherry