

▼ REVIEW

CHANGING TRENDS IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

Dr. Karthika Jayakumar, VP (Pre & Para Clinical),

Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth - Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute Campus
SSSMC&RI, Kanchipuram District -60310

ABSTRACT ► Today's health profession's education must change with respect to altered T/L methods, competency based learning & assessment. Health care delivery to change the focus from institution level to community level. From teacher centered to learner centered. Assessment to be shifted from knowledge acquisition to work based assessment.

Today's medical students are tomorrow's health care providers, these learners are trained, molded, sculptured by the teachers & faculties of medical colleges. Education by itself is a powerful tool, that enhances, the capacity of the learner to effectively execute & contribute to the efficient health care delivery in the community.

Learning not only imparts knowledge, skill, but also brings a change in behavior & attitude of the learners. Therefore it becomes, "the most powerful weapon that can change the world".

Does it need a change in medical college ? **YES**

Teaching in a medical college, face several challenges:

- a. Changing health related issues
- b. Change in Curriculum from mere acquisition of knowledge to competency development
- c. Teaching shifted from teacher centered to student centered
- d. Assessment need to be tailored on daily, work based activities
- e. Learning & health care delivery to be shifted from institution level to community forum.

Changing of health related issues, has several influencing factors, like the frequent migration of people from endemic geographical areas to other countries, facing changing patterns of the diseases &

depletion of safe, sensitive drugs leading to chronicity of illness. This fact has to be highlighted in the teaching, for the proper handling of the different case scenarios.

Curriculum must be altered from acquisition of knowledge to the development of competencies, which will ensure the learner to possess not only knowledge, skill but also appropriate attitude, communication skills with empathy.

Teaching /learning methods, need to be shifted from teacher centered to learner as well as patient care centered. These approaches can be further validated by POL/ PBL, SGT.

Learners must be made to have self directed learning, should take the ownership of learning process, this can be done by introducing innovative teaching learning techniques.

Assessment has to be changed from the acquisition of basic knowledge, to assessment of competencies & work based activities with suitable check list. Learner has to be given the feedback, to modify his attitude & skills, for further progress. This can be obtained by Multisource feedback (MSF) from faculty, peers & patients. This can be maintained by the log book, which will help in the evaluation of the learner.

The teaching & learning methods should focus on effective health care delivery to the community. This can be achieved through a multidisciplinary approach, community orientation, with demonstration of learning objectives in rural health care set up. This approach is to increase relevance, quantity, quality which will definitely strengthen the health profession education.

For all these to happen, there are two important factors:
(¹) learner & (²) teacher.

The learner need to be channeled in the proper path, by the trained faculty, which requires, the periodical Faculty development program, which aids in the pursuit of change in T/L methods for student centered approach, facilitating innovative methods, making learner to take ownership of the learning.

These trained faculties, make it feasible for the students to shift their attention from disease identification & treatment, TO disease prevention & health promotion.

This is possible only when emphasis is laid on the concept of "HOLISTIC MEDICINE". Which makes the spectrum get shifted from patient care to patient safety.

This requires the effective participation of the learner too, who should be motivated, committed to the learning process, willing to take the role of being team worker, along with leadership qualities. There should be a fair selection of the students into the medical college, at the time of admission.

They should be subjected for getting adequate exposure to other allied activities like Yoga & Musical therapy which also reduces the stress & helps in the modification of life style precipitated illness

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