

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Reflection on Medical Education

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This educational forum has been in existence over the past two years, with notable contribution from many educationalists working on the island. Topics that have been dealt with included the philosophy and programme of medical education at the Arabian Gulf University, training physicians for the 21st century, students entry characteristics, the students selection process and the reforms in curricula for undergraduate medical education. Post-graduate medical education had been minimally addressed. The topic that so far has not been comprehensively addressed is the issue of postgraduate medical education – local and regional. Also, analysis of local and regional experiences in medical education, both post and undergraduate has not been done, but if so not produced for publication.

An area that deserves special attention is the student's selection process and its impact on the type of doctor the medical schools produce mainly as it applies to the innovative systems in medical education. For example, high numerical score in high school, determines, to a large extent, the students

acceptance for medical education. Do high scorers therefore, become good doctors? Based on the criteria for student's selection for medical schools in the region, the answer must be yes. But have we put this interim of student's selection to the test? No. And therefore, an immediate in-depth assessment of the end product of the medical education programmes in the region is required. In a year or two we expect the medical school of the Arabian Gulf University to tell us if selection based on high scores in high schools was to be recommended or treated with caution. And what other criteria are equally important.

Moreover, the issue of international recognition seems to be of concern to the students and some faculty members; it merits thorough investigation. Definitely, there are many other issues regarding medical education, both under and postgraduate, that require discussion, and therefore, we again, solicit your participation to keep this forum alive and thriving.

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