

Basic Science Faculties: A Rising Problem

In the entire four and half year's course of MBBS, basic science, the first two years is a part where the foundation of a future doctor is laid. Like in any other school, college or a university, in MBBS also the teachers play an important role. It is obvious that without them no school, college or a university can run.

There is an overall shortage of teachers (faculties) in medical education in our country with exception of few medical colleges, but this shortage is extremely high in basic sciences. It is almost impossible for many medical colleges to meet the guidelines of faculty requirement made by the medical education regulatory bodies of our country and unfortunately the recent guideline is even more demanding than the earlier one.

Various reasons so far have been discussed in the development of this shortage in basic sciences. Among the medical graduates, attraction towards perusing a career as a basic science teacher is much less in comparison to the clinical sciences. Due to a huge discrepancy between the numbers of annual MBBS graduates produced by the medical colleges inside and outside the country and the number of postgraduate seats available, it's extremely difficult to get enrolled in post-graduation. On top of that everybody wants to pursue the career in the field where the future is said to be so called secured and where the handsome money can be made with less effort. So far the MBBS graduates do not have the feeling of these securities in perusing a career in basic sciences.

In the past few programs were initiated to overcome this problem. For example, the BDS graduates were allowed to study basic science subjects of MBBS after a bridge course. This had helped to solve the problem to some extent. But this was stopped few years ago. The faculties who are from M.Sc. back ground can teach but again certain rules are there for them to become a university approved faculty or to get further promoted to become a senior faculty. Within few years of joining a medical college they are forced to leave in search of better opportunities. Recently for them the better opportunity has become the provincial government academies where they are easily promoted to the post of senior faculties with a better salary.

The medical education regulatory bodies and all the steak holders of the country should come with some better policies in the development of faculties, especially in basic science, otherwise in near future the medical colleges will have no teachers in basic sciences.

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