



COMMUNITY ORIENTED MEDICAL EDUCATION CAMPS (COMEC) THEORY- MEDICAL EDUCATION IN PROSPECTIVE OF COMMUNITY EXPOSURE TO MEDICAL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Community approach in medical education would enable the future doctors to identify community health problems and develop the skills to resolve those using innovative ideas in medical field practices. To create learning opportunity among medical students community oriented medical education camps are of outmost value.

Method: In any medical college or institute with organizing 14 such medical education camps / exhibition one camp by each teaching department per year. It has to bear financial burden of Rs. 350000 (Rs. 25000 allotted to each camp) but it can well managed by collecting Rs. 500 per year per medical student as MESCOMEF.

Conclusion: By organizing medical education camps / exhibition the knowledge related to health and diseases can be displayed in public to raise the awareness besides learning health and medicine in public by medical students. It would be beneficial to medical students and public as well.

Key words: Medical Education, Health problems, COMEC, Camps.

INTRODUCTION:

Medical education is a process of transforming a student into a doctor, thus making competent enough for medical care. A medical student has to spend his valuable six to ten years learning medicine and different surgical procedures including practical, demonstration and lab tests etc. Despite of hard, laborious curriculum of medical education community orientation approach is lacking.

How to improve the effectiveness of basic medical education and subsequently, doctor's contin-

uous learning is possible only by understanding learning theory to medical education. Innovations in undergraduate medical education are influencing the whole spectrum of medical education. Creating an environment that provides practitioners with opportunities to explore and understand the personal theories underpinning their own practice is crucial for continuous professional development at all stages [1].

There is need of quality health professionals contributing through practice teaching and research to improve health of communities [1]. Clinical

problem solving has been identified as the core activity of how doctors learn and keep developing their competence. Future health professional will need skills in advocacy and public participation [1].

If the community oriented learning and teaching approach are to be taken into consideration.[2] Hundreds of thousand public will be benefited thereby helping to reduce morbidity and mortality. This approach will also helpful for promotion and protection of valuable health of people for living economically and socially productive life.

Medical education has vast scope from undergraduate to Super specialty courses. India has more than 362 allopathic Medical Institutions were more than 45,000 novice doctors are coming for medical practice every year.[3] A wide range of subject's right from anatomy - physiology to medicine & surgery are being taught to medical students. This subject knowledge may be made informative and beneficial to general public, ultimately raising awareness about their existing health problems.

Therefore there is an obvious need to develop such a program that may fulfill the needs of medical students as well as of public to impart direct benefits Hence community oriented medical education camps may be organized by each teaching departments to exhibit knowledge, skills, innovative ideas of medical students for purpose of prevention, intervention & treatment with help of concerned faculty members.

The main objective of COMEC theory is to create a learning environment in each subject, through organizing medical education camps or exhibitions, with guidance and help of teaching faculties at public gatherings e.g. schools, colleges, community fairs, mela etc. The subject knowledge related to health and disease, sanita-

tion, environmental cleanliness using innovative ideas and procedures. Medical students would get the opportunity to interact with public and try to resolve the community health problems.

METHODS

What is COMEC theory? It simply means organizing medical education camps or exhibitions at various community locations involving medical students to plan, arrange and organize such camps with the help of faculty, teachers for direct interactions with public.

How does it work? Separate medical subject departments will organize camps annually specially by medical students under the direct guidance of faculty members. Students groups from each subject may be assigned with project work under the direct supervision & guidance of faculty members. By organizing such 14 medical education camps every year may succeed to aware thousand of people about health, hygiene and modes of disease prevention. It will also aware the public about newer technologies and treatment options.

Table 1: Scheme of financial support for medical education camps*

Expenditure of one camp / Exhibition(a)	Rs. 25000
Medical Education Camps per year(b)	14
Expenditure needed per year (axb)	Rs. 350000
Support from each medical student as MESCOMEF** per year (c)	Rs. 500
Total student 1 st year to final year (150 annual intake) (d)	750
Total Amount collected in one year(dx)	Rs. 375000

* All figures given are arbitrary and likely to vary according to need and availability.

** Medical student community oriented medical education fund.

Table 2: Scheme of Medical Education Camps and expenditures*

Subjects	Year	Camps Exhibition	Expenditure	MESCOMEF
Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry	First	3	75000	75000
Pharmacology, Pathology, Microbiology, Jurisprudence	Second	4	100000	75000
Community Medicine, ENT, Ophthalmology	Third	3	75000	75000
Pediatrics, Gynecology	Fourth	2	50000	75000
Medicine, Surgery	Final	2	50000	75000
Total		14	3,50,000	3,75,000

*All figures given are arbitrary and likely to vary according to need and availability.

Hence it is obvious that no financial burden on any medical college or institution will be there. Fund can be disbursed for camps from medical college or institute itself.

BENEFITS TO MEDICAL STUDENTS

Camps provide direct exposure to community thus learning community dealing in medical profession. Innovative ideas, research skills will also be developed. Students will learn the practical application of subjects. Community based practical knowledge for medical students. Commendable work may be exhibited in college museums reports & reviews may be published in medical journals and in public media.

BENEFITS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

By organizing medical camps, exhibitions, displaying practical knowledge about medical problems, the general public would come to know so many hidden facts of medical fields. Awareness will be enhanced about various health problems. Medical problems may be directly discussed with public. Awareness about nature of disease transmission and modes of prevention will reduce the episodes of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

CONCLUSION

By organizing medical education camps in the public a huge opportunity of learning experience about community health problems the practical aspects of the subject will be developed. The innovative ideas and sense of creativity in each subject will be transformed into solving the prevailing health problems of general public. Thus

the medical students will be benefited through the medical education camps by spending meager amount of Rs.25000 for each camp and nominal charge of 500 rupees per medical student per year may be beneficial for enhancing and imparting practical and applied aspects of each 14 subject. By organizing medical camps and also the exhibitions would enhance the public awareness about the various types of equipments human anatomy, physiology, posters and charts, different models of causation & transmission of diseases also hygiene, sanitation, disposal of waste by means of personal interactive learning. It would ultimately help in raising the public awareness about various aspects of health & disease.

Thus COMEC theory will revolutionize learning acumen of medical students and also practical aspects of health and disease and various modes of prevention. Medical students will be able to learn in practice the application of creative innovative ideas to resolve the public health problems in direct community perspective. Truly, a doctor should be trained with high standards before and afterwards as he/ she has to deal with human beings.

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