

Systemic Shortcomings In India's Medical Education System, Highlighting And Deficiencies Proposing Radical Solutions For Improvement.

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Abstract

India leads the world in the number of registered medical institutions and produces the largest number of medical doctors in the world. Notwithstanding this, India struggles for the concerns of poor quality of medical education, incompetent medical workforces, and insignificant research contribution to the world which is due to the malfunctioning of Indian regulatory bodies. Many Authors (domestic and foreign) have written extensively on the prevailing deficiencies of the medical education system of India in the last decade but essentially failed in offering effective and realistic solutions for the deficiencies cited by them. The present study undertakes a detailed review of the articles published in the last decade that critically analyses the various aspects of the medical education system of India. The objective of this article is to present the deficiencies in the medical education system in the country supported by statistical facts and figures to provide a framework to enable a better understanding of the complexity of the medical education system in India. This article also attempts to present effective solutions for the same as publicised by the regulatory and governing bodies of medical education and health care system of India thereby providing insight into the future directions in revolutionising it.

Keywords: Competency-based curriculum, Globalisation, Medical council of Indian, National medical council, Privatisation, The regulatory body Competency-based curriculum, Globalisation, Medical council of India

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I. Introduction

Current State of Medical Education in India

- India has one of the largest higher education systems globally, with 51 over,000 institutions and 35.7 million students enrolled.
- Despite producing the highest number of medical professionals, the doctor-to-population ratio is 1:1456, below the WHO recommendation of 1:1000, indicating a significant shortage of healthcare providers.
- The number of medical colleges has increased from 20 at independence to 542 in 2020, with a notable rise in undergraduate and postgraduate seats. However, many graduates are unable to pursue further education, leading to low employability and increased migration of medical professionals abroad.
- Regulatory bodies have failed to maintain educational standards, resulting in issues such as poor quality of education, incompetent professionals, and insufficient research contributions.

II. Literature Review And Methodology

- The review analyzed 54 articles published between 2010 and 2020, focusing on various aspects of medical education in India, including curriculum quality, funding, and the impact of globalization and privatization.
- Articles were selected based on their relevance to the medical education system, excluding those that did not meet specific criteria.

III. Structure Of The Medical Education System

- The Medical Council of India (MCI) was established to regulate medical education but has faced criticism for focusing on primarily documentation rather than actual educational quality and infrastructure.
- Recommendations from various committees have called for a reconfiguration of the MCI, emphasizing the need for independent regulatory processes and better enforcement of medical ethics.

IV. Challenges In Medical Education

- ***Inequitable Distribution of Resources*:** Certain states have a disproportionate number of medical seats compared to their population, leading to regional disparities in healthcare access.
- ***Selection and Admission Issues*:** The introduction of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aimed to standardize admissions but has faced criticism for its implementation and allegations of malpractice.
- ***Faculty Shortages*:** There is a significant shortage medical of qualified faculty, with many institutions unable to meet the recommended teacher-student ratio.
- ***Quality of Research*:** A large number of medical colleges produce little to no research, and many published works are of poor quality, often appearing in predatory journals.

V. Proposed Solutions

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) aims to address these issues by introducing autonomous boards for better governance of medical education and establishing a final-year MBBS examination to standardize qualifications.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated schemes to strengthen existing medical colleges and increase postgraduate seats.
- The National Education Policy (2019) proposes expanding healthcare education by upgrading district hospitals to teaching facilities and promoting a common foundation period for medical graduates, allowing for lateral entry into medical courses from other health disciplines.

VI. Conclusion

The deficiencies in India's medical education system stem from ineffective regulatory practices and outdated policies. Implementing the NMC regulations's and enhancing the infrastructure of medical institutions are crucial for improving the quality of medical education and healthcare delivery in India. Urgent reforms are needed to balance the establishment of new medical colleges with the quality of education and healthcare services provided.

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