

INITIATIVE

Learning Community Medicine through Community exposure; a proactive approach for UG teaching at GMERS Medical College, Valsad

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Based on past experience & future demand, we have planned to adopt certain innovations in UG curriculum with flexibility to change dynamically to get maximum benefit of the efforts for community as well as for the students.

Presently, there is 3rd batch of undergraduate students in our college. At this primitive stage of development of college, our department has designed an action plan for these students for learning Community Medicine hands on.

(1) One village to one student

We have around 465 villages in Valsad district & 450 students currently in the college. So at present we have assigned one village to one student. The students will work in a group of 4 to 5 for a group of 4 to 5 villages. The assignment of villages will be from 1st MBBS to Internship. (For some students it could be up to life time!) As the additional batch of students get admission, they will join their senior students as per the rotations. The Dang district will be added at an appropriate juncture. We have a plan to create street health guide at the rate of 4 per 20 houses/100 population. Also the approximate ratio will be applied to institutes like school, college, industry, Government departments other than health, associations etc. So approximately one student need to train around 50 to 60 volunteers in a span of 2 to 3 years.

The task for volunteer is to devote around 1 - 2 hrs of learning & 1-2 hours of sharing with 20 households or with members of institutions as the case may be. .

The information will be given by pamphlets, booklets, mobile library cum exhibitions, sms, whats app, email etc to support direct skill based training & education programmes.

Incremental learning process will be adopted at all levels with additional inputs of situation oriented modular training. For capacity building of students the training will be divided into two parts. (a) general, (b) specific to situation.

The overall activities at village level will include facilitation in implementation of National Health Programmes, Nutrition, sanitation, prevention of addiction & de addiction, School health, RCH activities etc. All students will record the progress in Village files which will be available in village for the purpose of common use for all working for that village. Web based reporting, interactions, information exchange; research initiatives etc will be developed in such a way that other medical colleges as well as students can use the same platform.

Common platform will be used to involve Government functionaries, voluntary organizations, Self help groups, students of other colleges – like Social work, Home science, engineering etc in their related filed.

(2) Use of family folder by medical students for 5 and half years

From the first MBBS each student will be assigned 2 families from RHTC/UHTC & they will use the family folder which is having details of each family member. As on now 900 families are being

allotted to the 450 students. Students will follow up the families till the end of their education. Students of new batches will join their seniors as per their turn.

(3) Virtual Museum & Health Exhibition

Best of the State & Nation will be shown in our museum in form of video & also we will have website with 108 sections related to health topics. Students will be actively encouraged to participate & add creatively to modify the content.

(4) Holistic Health Camps

Students will be involved in Holistic health camp which will have educational components, screening components, treatment facility as well as inbuilt follow up mechanism with two way referral systems.

(5) Preventive OPD and Preventive Wards

Students will be posted at preventive OPD & Preventive wards. While OPDs are there at Main hospital, UHTC & RHTC; preventive wards will only be there at RHTC in beginning. Life style modification with integrated approach will be taught to patients for Primary, Secondary & tertiary prevention at OPD level. Indoor will be utilized only for specific conditions like under nutrition, Obesity, Diabetes, Hypertension, Hypothyroidism, joint pain etc. Modern concept of scientific study of Alternative & Complimentary medicines will be integrated with research zeal.