

A MEDICAL TEACHER'S DREAM OF AN IDEAL MEDICAL INSTITUTION

A medical institution should not only be a place of teaching and imparting skills to the students of medicine and allied health sciences but also need to be *an alma mater* which can influence and modify whole of the life pattern and mind set of its pupils. Seeds of free thinking, logical analysis and intelligent experimentation are sowed in the minds of students during their stay at a purpose built academy. These apparently dreamy ideas can be converted in to visible reality by concentrating on some of the following basic requirements of education and academics in medical institutions, whether in government or public sector.

- > Efficient and **motivated** faculty.
- > Merit and **aptitude** based admission of students.
- > Sufficient and **updated** teaching and training facilities.
- > Building and **Campus environment**.

The faculty should be properly qualified, experienced and motivated. Selection of faculty is an important and critical event in the life of institution which predicts the future success or failure of their programs. The selectors be given a free hand to recruit people of desired need and caliber with out being under any kind of influence. The faculty should be provided access to the developed centres of research and medical education through educational visits, webinars and other online resource utilizations. They should be encouraged to participate in international dialogue on latest developments in the field of medical sciences. Its not only the marks in a given examination which should determine the merit but also the aptitude of a students for a particular discipline, he/she is aspiring to join. The need to incorporate psychological and behavioral assessment tools in the admission protocol should be seriously considered and implemented.

While embarking upon modern gadgets, the traditional scientific methods and techniques should not be exclusively wiped out from the medical curriculum. Lecture theater, laboratory and discussion rooms should be ample in number and equipped with all necessary audiovisual aids for imparting knowledge. The old styled one way teaching is an obsolete entity now. A successful teacher will always involve his or her students in the process and create an interactive and pleasant teaching and learning environment free of compulsive or forceful dragging of students into a field of teacher's choice. The building design, location and surrounding environment of a medical institution also influence the academics. An airy, comfortable, sufficiently equipped building surrounded by open air fields are more conducive to the academics as compared to narrow, congested building situated in a densely populated area without any play grounds and open air space. The effect of temperature and light should always be kept in mind while designing the building of a medical institution. The building should have facilities for physical exercise and fitness promoting activities. The students should be encouraged to participate in physical and sports related activities and credit should be given for getting involved in sports in addition to their normal academic performance.

I personally get delighted when ever I think about the places where I got opportunities not only for mental grooming but also for my physical fitness and sports. I always remember and admire "The Rose Garden", "The Oval" and The Bokhari auditorium of Government College Lahore. The Quadrangle of Nishtar Medical College and the lush green sports grounds of the University of Leicester, United Kingdom. These places influenced my life, not less than the big lecture halls, spacious labs, lovable teachers and fellow students at these institutions.

An ideal medical institution should be a center of excellence in medical sciences education where we can prepare our medical progeny to compete with the challenges being faced by the humanity in the form of Cancer, AIDS, Ischemic Heart Disease, Obesity, Diabetes Mellitus and many other unresolved medical problems. **A mission which is difficult but achievable by honest human efforts in the form of a committed team led by a hardworking, honest and competent leader, who has political will and loves this country more than his own self.**

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Saeed

MBBS, M.Phil, Ph.D (PAK), POST. DOC(UK)

Professor of Biochemistry

Principal

Sheikh Zayed Medical College/Hospital,

Rahim Yar Khan
