



## International Accreditation for Quality Medical Education: Its necessity & challenges in Bangladesh

The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) declared in 2010 that every country should have its own independent accreditation council to ensure the quality of medical education. Without accreditation, graduates of any country would not be allowed to study and engage in jobs in the first world like USA, UK, Canada and Australia after June 2023 which was extended up to June 2024.<sup>1</sup> Among the South East Asian countries, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Nepal already received accreditation from the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME). Bangladesh is not accredited till now. If Bangladesh does not receive accreditation from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), it's Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) will not be recognized internationally in many countries like United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and Europe. Not only that the Bangladeshi MBBS graduates will lose out on job opportunities and will not be able to participate in any training programs in first world country. Without accreditation, Bangladesh will be failed to admit the foreign students in any Govt/Private medical colleges & loses foreign currencies.

In Bangladesh, currently the number of medical colleges and seats have been increased, but the quality of education has not been improved at the same rate. Bangladeshi medical colleges face a number of challenges, including a shortage of teachers and infrastructure. To receive accreditation from the WFME, Bangladesh must address these challenges & solve accordingly.

In the mean time, **Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Bill, 2023** was passed in the parliament on 07 September 2023 aiming to ensure quality medical education by acknowledging the academic curriculum and the concerned institutions by providing accreditation certificates.<sup>2</sup> **The Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Act, 2023** was published on 18 September 2023. By this act, Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Council was already formed.<sup>3</sup> Now Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Council needs to be approved by World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) first. In order to achieve accreditation, Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Council should have to follow the guidelines provided by World Federation of Medical Education (WFME). After getting the approval, the country council can start to accredit both public and private medical colleges of country as per World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) guidelines.

For our country's accreditation, **"International Conference on Accreditation for Quality Medical Education"** was held on 29-30 September 2024 at Hotel Inter Continental, Shahbag, Dhaka. The president of World federation of Medical

Education (WFME) **Prof. Ricardo Leon Borquez** and representatives from Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mexico, USA and UK joined in that conference. Hopefully Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Council will achieve international accreditation for quality of medical education as soon as possible.

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2. Bangladesh Medical Education Accreditation Bill, 2023. The Dhaka Tribune. 07 September 2023.
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