Post Covid-19 Impact and Adaptations of Undergraduate Medical Education in Bangladesh

By the end of 2019 spread and emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (COVID-19) has become a global health disaster and has had a significant impact on medical education. Due to pandemcity, the medical education system was changed from a physical face-to-face and bed-side learning model to a internet based virtual method to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These changes disturbed the medical education and hospital service systems as well. To maintain and to ensure the integrity of medical education, we needed to have a logic education method and firmness of administrative leadership. The objectives of this type of medical education system may be to enhance and extend their teaching-learning activities in a very short time. COVID-19 pandemic has imposed big challenges on medical education worldwide. Undergraduate students are recognized as a vulnerable population, suffering from higher levels of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and disordered eating compared to the general population. Therefore, when the nature of their working/ educational system changed radically, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the burden on the mental health of this medical professionals was increased many folds.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education and assessment of undergraduate medical students, was very significant. With the spreading of coronavirus rapidly across the globe, countries have taken swift and decisive actions to mitigate the development of a full-blown pandemic. COVID-19 is expected to directly affect students by disengaging them from learning (either at college or home), as the longer time students stay away from studying/learning activities, the more likely it is that their skills would deteriorate, resulting in the formation of learning gaps. Students from privileged families are more likely to have access to internet and other facilities. Though the number cases of Covid-19 are reduced, medical education including all kinds of education was hampered and session jams appeared throughout.

We have gone through and examined the relevant articles using search engines like Scopus and PubMed. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has unlocked a creative horizon in accepting an appropriate hybrid educational methodology. This conveyed safe health professionalism, with the human-centered ethical values.

A direct, hands-on scientific learning method develops graduates’ skills and experience that ensure the quality of medical education. However, to combat the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, medical colleges and other health profession education institutions globally must adjust their curriculum and educational strategies. Innovative distant learning modes, using extended technology, e-learning tools, and simulation amenities can provide a good educational methodology. From experience gained through a pandemic, medical schools should perform best practices for a dynamic shift to blended learning and assessment. Moreover, medical educators should develop practical guidelines or protective actions to conduct clinical teaching without negotiating safety, health, and quality of medical education.

The pandemic attack of COVID-19 has changed the students’ life style and education delivery and reception around the world in a very short time. COVID-19 pandemic has imposed big challenges on medical education worldwide. Undergraduate
medical students of Bangladesh expressed their concern about disruption of medical education, losing of clinical skill, increased level of anxiety and stress, and changing aspect of future career plan. In addition, financial burden, lacking of opportunities for meaningful learning, possibility of maintenance of social distancing and fear of getting infected were reported. Innovative transformations are expected to overcome the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on medical education of Bangladesh.

We need to understand the scale of impact of learning and teaching contents of modified / hybrid education during the Covid-19 time. Our observation may give some insight to prevent the further damage of these effected students in their higher education in future.

The COVID-19 pandemic created new challenges to medical education, and such a disruption of the learning environment requires leadership and coordination across sectors. Some of the strategies used by different medical colleges may have power beyond the pandemic, reshaping how tomorrow's health professionals are trained.

Post-Pandemic medical education needs a stronger focus on public health and the community's needs. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, medical students should engage with public health activities. Importance of inter-professional education, collaboration and knowledge exchange approach should be included in medical curricula. Even though the pandemic has affected medical education, Tech-based teaching-learning played a great role to minimize the damage during the pandemic. This hybrid educational model may play a great role in future crisis. The pandemic highlighted the need for more robust mental health education for the medical students as part of the medical curriculum.

References


Prof. Dr. Quazi Manjurul Haque
Executive Editor, KYAMC Journal

128