

Students friendly medical examination

Sir,

Undergraduate medical education is very vast area comprises of over dozen subjects and their evaluation through professional examination. In current scenario of modern life students are pressurized from every corners, economic burden, lack of proper teaching or friendly environment, senior and peer group pressure, love affairs are common issues during college life. Insecurity of job after completion of education will pose future financial fear. These are some common reasons enough to pressurized, therefore incidence of depression and suicidal tendencies are going on to be increases several folds among medicos. In current scenario of tough life, medical examination is always a burden. The professional exams of universities are the matter of their norms and regulation, but we have day-to-day assessment through-out duration; this is enough to moralize them and prepare before final professional examination.

I would like to share a personal experience with context to their evaluation in written terminal and oral examination. Regarding to written terminal exam, our aim is to improve their quality rather than quantity. So first, I restrict page/lines limit according to questions such as, one page or half page only, five lines only, five points only, etc. In place of long or essay oriented questions, I have used the terminologies such as comments, innumerate, silent features, point out, differentiate, etc. As per need there may be sections like explain by arrow (flow chart method), describe in brief or in diagrammatic style. This pattern enhances quality oriented writing pattern by saving enough time after smooth and peaceful writing of the answer book. These practices (3 times per annum in our department) impart their good quality in final university examination.

Oral examination is the most critical, crucial and unreliable parameter to judge the caliber within a short span. Most of the time viva is based on affluence, smartness and memory power of the students. Hesitation, fear and anxiety can reduce performance, frankly saying viva is by luck and sometime it is biased. I have introduced a system of chits that contains prefixed viva question from various topics, Students are free to pick the chit from favorable section and answer accordingly. They have an option to change over to another chit in case of difficulty to answer. Within specific time limits he/she can answers through using number of chits. This system will automatically eliminate fear and anxiety of viva in the initial stage and makes a friendly atmosphere so that we switch over to the next step and take the viva as usual per convenience.

This is urging of time to modify old dated and traditional system of medical exam evaluation from every corners and update to them according to the present environment. Our system should not be over stressed but should be student friendly. Aim of our medical education is not only to prepare a well-qualified doctor but also to make a good person for society.

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