

Guest Editorial

CHALLENGES IN MEDICAL EDUCATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMICS

Over the past few decade, there have been several factors impacting medical education but the recent COVID-19 pandemic has touched all levels of society, and in almost every part of the world there have been tremendous pressures and calls for change. This pandemic has caused unrivalled disruption to the medical education process and to healthcare systems worldwide.

In these changing circumstances, most of the available teaching and learning methods have been modified to provide students with opportunities for continuous learning. Class room lectures have been converted to scheduled live online lectures with interactive discussions, while seminars are being replaced by webinars. Telemedicine is permitting medical students to play the role of a healthcare professional by interviewing patients, working with attendants to plan treatments, helping with paperwork, and counseling patients about their illness and prognosis.

Besides these available resources, medical colleges and universities are facing challenges to provide quality education to their students. Some of these students are sitting at their homes coping with changing trends in teaching and learning strategies and the heightened stress of confinement due to the pandemic situation. Others are residing in areas where, internet connectivity is an issue. Clinical skills teaching and learning is another challenge faced by medical faculty and students which cannot be accomplished by online teaching. Teachers, health care professionals, and students are affected by the devastating effects of Corona virus infections.

The sacrifices that our healthcare workers are making for the safety and welfare of humanity is priceless and deserves lifelong gratitude. During this pandemic, many learned health professional and students across the country lost their lives. In Khyber College of Dentistry, a renowned teacher and researcher Dr. Sultan Zeb Khan sacrificed his life while serving the community. We dedicate this current issue of journal to his name as a token of appreciation to his services. May Allah almighty grant him highest place in Jannah. Ameen

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