

Correspondence

Medical Education in India: Critical Challenges and Solutions

To the Editor: I appreciate the editorial on 'Medical Education in India' published in your recent journal (Vol 57 No. 4, 2015)¹ by Gautam Ahluwalia and G.S. Grewal. Considering the spurious growth of medical colleges in the private sector, it is high time for the court of appeal (MCI) to streamline the quality of medical education, selection process and examination procedure, so that the community is in safe hands. This will ensure curbing the expenditure for diagnosis and management. I am given to understand that faculty members (not the least heads of departments) are penalised by the management in case of failure of post graduates at the final examination. Quite often they are not involved in the 'selection' of medical graduates as rightly referred to is the article cited. The outcome of efforts by faculty is related to the quality and motivation of students to learn (and not, only to get the degree!), to achieve the objective it is suggested that:

- (a) Admission to PG courses also in the private sector is based on common entrance examination supervised by MCI.
- (b) Random surprise inspection of the conduct of such examination by representatives of MCI and derecognize such colleges without any appeal thereafter

- (c) Conduct a screening test after 6 weeks of starting the course and only successful candidates are permitted to continue the course.
- (d) Conduct periodic assessment of qualified doctors, confirming maintenance of quality practice through CMEs.
- (e) Random perusal of case documents of patients who died in hospital by an independent agency and forward comments to MCI.

I am sure such drastic positive measure will improve the quality of medical education and health of community. Needless to mention the wealth of a nation is the health of the nation.

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Reference

1. Ahluwalia G, Grewal GS. Medical education in India: critical challenges and solutions. *Indian J Chest Dis Allied Sci* 2015;57:215-7.