
Technology transfer by faculty exchange between developed and developing countries

Karki DB¹

¹Professor & HoD, Department of Medicine, Kathmandu Medical College, Sinamangal

All the sub-specialties in medical science have been adding new knowledge and technology every day. It is a great challenge to the specialists to keep themselves abreast with the recent advances in their own field of medicine. Information technology is available in the cities of developing and underdeveloped countries but its application is confined to a very few centres. In spite of the availability of physical facilities and resources, it is very difficult to deliver the highly sophisticated technology because of the lack of adequately trained manpower in the underdeveloped nation.

In Nepal specialists trained in different parts of the world provide specialized medical services to the needy population. Most of them possess certificate of having completed their training and a degree awarded to them in a glossy piece of paper. Most of our health institutions and universities dedicated in the higher training of medical manpower and even the Ministry of Health seem to be satisfied only with the qualifications of faculty members. Presently there is no proper satisfactory screening system of selecting the prospective academicians, who are expected to be the leaders in their own specialization. In our present system, a specialist may produce an evidence of higher qualification but may not possess adequate technical competency.

In such a circumstance, how can we expect the maintenance of high standard of medical education and satisfactory transfer of technology to the young generation?

Nepal is an under developed country with limited resources and a very scarce adequately trained manpower. Training centres of higher medical education should take the advantage of the experience of developed nation like United Kingdom and United States of America. Introduction of certificate of completion of supervised specialist training in UK has solved some of the shortcomings pointed above. Postgraduate Medical Education Coordination Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Tribhuvan University conducted seven postgraduate degree programmes for nearly a decade until the end of 2059. It had strict criteria for the selection of preceptors. In the last few years BPKIHS and Kathmandu University have also introduced criteria for the faculty members. We should hope that these degree awarding bodies and other incoming institutions like NAMS maintain a high academic standard comparable to any developed nations of the world. There should not be

compromises in matters related to academic principles.

How can we improve the academic standard and transfer the newer technology to our country? All those involved in the postgraduate medical education and health delivery system of the country should try to answer this question sincerely. There may be many ways to do this. Besides developing healthy academic culture and providing proper training to the young faculty inside and outside the country, exchange of technical medical manpower between the health institutions of developed and underdeveloped countries like Nepal would be very useful in technology transfer in future.

Medical personnel from the developed country could have first hand information about the health problems of the developing nation and at the same time could enjoy being in a new place. Similarly the medical manpower from the developing country could have access to modern technology and learn many new skills. It is good to acquire knowledge with the help of modern information technology like Internet, which is available every where in the world. Acquiring skill and competency by observation is better. But learning new skills by doing is the best of all the ways.

The faculty exchange programme will motivate the specialists and encourage them to develop the quality of clinical thinking and broad vision.

Kathmandu Medical College is encouraging the faculty members to acquire newer skills. College is also trying to organize faculty exchange programme with the medical centres of excellence in the developed countries. Such a programme will help our institution to provide highly specialized medical science to Nepalese population in future.

