

Quo Vadis – Post Graduate Medical Education in Nepal?

Some fifty years ago there was neither a university nor a medical college in Nepal. Nepal has made a great progress in the medical education during the past decade. Ten medical colleges have already been started and quite a few are on the pipeline. Postgraduate medical education in seven subjects was being conducted by Post Graduate Medical Education Coordination Committee with the combined effort of Ministry of Health and Tribhuvan University until the end of Chaitra 2059. This programme was started in the year 2051 and during this period of nine years 209 medical graduates were enrolled for postgraduate study in seven subjects. This is a great achievement in the history of postgraduate medical education of Nepal.

Ministry of health, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has decided to establish National Academy of Medical Science at Bir Hospital from first of Baisakh 2060. Consequent to this decision, PGMECC was merged with NAMS and two postgraduate institutions namely NAMS and IOM got officially separated. Presently besides these two institutions, BPKIHS and Kathmandu University are actively involved in the training of postgraduate doctors in Nepal.

Nepal is a small country with limited resources. Our country cannot afford duplication of specialized services. As far as possible different postgraduate training centers should consider to achieve the uniform standard of postgraduate

medical education in our country. To achieve the minimum uniform standard of medical education, common core curriculum, common entrance and exit examination should be introduced as early as possible. All the postgraduate institutions involved in training postgraduate students should get together to discuss on various aspects of postgraduate medical education and come to final conclusion regarding the uniform standard of the programme.

Postgraduate medical education programme should have no problem in maintaining a minimum uniform standard if all the concerned authorities agree to adopt some to the following suggestions.

- Common core curriculum
- Common entrance examination
- Common exit examination
- Adequate physical facilities
- Adequate teaching learning facilities and
- Sincere and academically oriented faculty members

Besides encouraging self-directed learning, faculty members should also take active participation in teaching postgraduate students. More emphasis should be given to hand on knowledge for the students. A good theoretical knowledge and therapeutic skill in the related subjects is a prerequisite.

DBK