



WORKSHOP ON THE NEEDS FOR RESEARCH  
IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

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A SURVEY OF THE PROBLEMS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION  
AS STATED BY THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(For identification of major problems facing  
Medical Education in the Region)

by

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This report is prepared for the participants in the Workshop on the needs for research in medical education. Through a questionnaire (see Annex), the medical schools were asked to check on a list of group problems which they face in their schools, and to list "other problems" (open question).

Twenty-five medical schools responded out of thirty-six located in twelve countries of the Region.

COMMENTS

1. All schools which responded, reported facing high percentage of problems on the check list. The minimum number of problems was seven and the highest checked all the list of sixteen and added more.
2. All schools, new and old, reported facing problems in medical education. This is an important finding which needs discussion; why a newly established school should suffer from problems right from the beginning? Is it possible to establish a medical school in a way to avoid these problems?
3. Some problems are easy to solve, other problems remain complex, unyielding or awaiting creative attention by methodical educational research. However, if the problems are to be solved, radical innovations in the system of medical education are required.

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TABLE I

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS APPROACHED	MEDICAL SCHOOLS RESPONDED	NAME OF MEDICAL SCHOOL WHICH RESPONDED	SERIAL NUMBER
Afghanistan	2	1	Nangarhar	1
Egypt	7	3	Assiut	2
			Alexandria	3
			Cairo (Kasr-el-Eini)	4
Ethiopia	1	-	-	5
Jordan	1	1	Jordan, Amman	6
Iran	7	5	National - Teheran	7
			Meshed	8
			Isfahan	9
			Shiraz	10
			Jondi Shapur	11
Iraq	3	3	Baghdad	12
			Basrah	13
			Mosul	14
Lebanon	2	1	French - Beirut	15
Libya	1	1	Benghazi	16
Pakistan	7	5	Dow	17
			Fatima Jinnah	18
			Quaid-i-Azam	19
			Khyber	20
			Sind	21
Saudi Arabia	1	1	Riyad	22
Sudan	1	1	Khartoum	23
Syria	2	2	Damascus	24
			Aleppo	25
Tunisia	1	1	Tunis	26
12 countries	36	25		72%

TABLE 2

SERIAL No. & NAME OF SCHOOL	PROBLEM NUMBER - SCORES (+) POSITIVE (-) NEGATIVE ANSWERS																No. OF POSITIVE ANSWERS IN EACH SCHOOL
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	
1 NANGARHAR	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	13
2 ASSIUT	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15
3 ALEXANDRIA	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	13
4 CAIRO	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16
5 JORDAN	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	9
6 NATIONAL (TEHERAN)	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	12
7 MESHED	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	10
8 ISFAHAN	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	12
9 SHIRAZ	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	8
10 JONDI SHAFUR	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	7
11 BAGHDAD	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	8
12 BASRAH	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16
13 MOSUL	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15
14 FRENCH BEIRUT	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	7
15 BENGHAZI	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	8
16 DOW	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16
17 FATIMA JINNAH	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	16
18 QA'ID-I- AZZAM	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	9
19 KHYBER	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	15
20 SIND	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	11
21 RIYAD	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	7
22 KHARTOUM	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	15
23 DAMASCUS	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	10
24 ALEPPO	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	9
25 TUNIS	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	9
No. OF POSI- TIVE ANSWERS IN EACH PROBLEM	20	20	17	19	12	12	24	22	22	16	15	21	13	18	17	18	

TABLE 3

Problems arranged according to prevalence, as stated by Medical Schools:

1st.	24 (+)	Teachers training and teaching methods
2nd.	22 (+)	Shortage of teaching staff Evaluation of student performance
3rd.	21 (+)	Shortage of modern audio-visual aids
4th.	20 (+)	Statement of educational objectives Curriculum construction Student selection
5th.	19 (+)	Standards of Secondary School Graduates
6th.	18 (+)	Financial problems and lack of information about costs of medical education Shortage of hospitals/clinics for training
7th.	17 (+)	Lack of satisfactory communication in medical education Large number of students
8th.	16 (+)	Shortage of physical facilities Shortage of modern library
9th.	13 (+)	Shortage of student textbooks
10th.	12 (+)	Teaching medicine in foreign language Student failure and drop out

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This picture is an overview of the twenty-five medical schools which responded, but, if we would consider each school separately, the priorities of problems might be the opposite or at least not in that order. So, each school should study its problems and set priorities.

TABLE 4

Problems listed in the open question:

- a) Lack of specific rewards for teaching
- b) Emphasis on teaching rather than learning
- c) Prevalence of passive rather than active learning on the part of the students
- d) Students teachers relation
- e) Lack or shortage of technicians
- f) Effect of postgraduate studies on under graduate studies in the same school
- g) The salaries of the professors
- h) Political activities of teachers and students
- i) Living conditions of teachers and students
- j) Subject duplication
- k) Complete free education
- l) System of examination  
Training of examiners  
Private practice of teachers
- m) Rigid statutes in the face of change  
Public opinion and the change  
All faculty members must be convinced for changes
- n) Lack of knowledge of basis of learning process
- o) Medical school economics
- p) Space/Time utilization
- q) Integrated teaching  
Brain drain  
Modern medicine in curriculum
- r) Lack of anatomical human material  
Lack of post mortem exams  
Motivation of teachers and students to adopt modern methods of teaching and learning

- s) Uniformity in standard of medical education at international level  
Teachers exchange programme at international level.

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N.B. Most of the stated problems fall in the various groups of problems  
already listed in the questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INQUIRY ABOUT PROBLEMS FACED BY  
MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

NAME OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

COUNTRY

Please check the list of problems you think that need to be solved in Medical Education. Mark (+) for positive (-) for negative answers.

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
I	Statement of educational objectives and curriculum structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
II	Student selection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
III	Large number of student admission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IV	The standard of secondary school graduates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
V	Teaching medicine in a foreign language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VI	Student failure and drop-out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VII	Teachers training and teaching methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIII	Evaluation of student performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IX	Shortage of teaching staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
X	Shortage of physical facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XI	Shortage of modern library facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XII	Shortage of modern audiovisual aids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XIII	Shortage of students text books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XIV	Shortage of hospitals and clinics for training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XV	Lack of satisfactory communication in medical education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XVI	Financial problems and lack of information about the costs of medical education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List problems not included above (open question).