

Integrated Teaching in Medical Curriculum

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The term 'Integration' has been derived from Latin word integer which means synchronization of different activities to ensure acceptable performance. Integration is best represented by our own body where various systems exist and all work in a synchronous way and full integration with each other. So, integration in education means coordination in the teaching learning activities to ensure harmonious functioning of the educational processes which are repeatedly taught in different academic courses or departments.¹⁻³ Therefore, integrated teaching is an effective teaching method for undergraduate medical students to achieve good knowledge and skills. It has been emphasized by academicians that it helps in purposeful, appropriate learning and better understanding of any topic. In medical education, correlation of theoretical and practical knowledge is mandatory. Hence, the teaching should be done in integration where relevant topic of different subjects bring together to teach it in more effective way for the benefit of the patients and society as a whole. Fragmented approach of teaching is the sole disadvantage in the present system of education. This type of learning creates apathy among the students and knowledge gained is not put into practice.⁴ Thus, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) already incorporated the integrated approach in the medical curriculum in order to provide the students with holistic rather than fragmented learning perspectives.⁵ Subsequently, the integrated thinking offers the capacity to individualize.⁶ Since medical education is related

to community services so, we need to teach our students to correlate the various subject effectively to produce efficient and competency based new medical graduates.

The effectiveness of integrated teaching is dedicated to its mode of implementation. Importance of integration at right time and at right place in curriculum plays a vital role in its operational success. Training of different faculties about newer method of integration plays a crucial role in efficient integrated teaching which needs cooperation amongst various subjects both horizontally and vertically. Integration is the backbone of newer curriculum which is a beam of hope in medical education.

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