

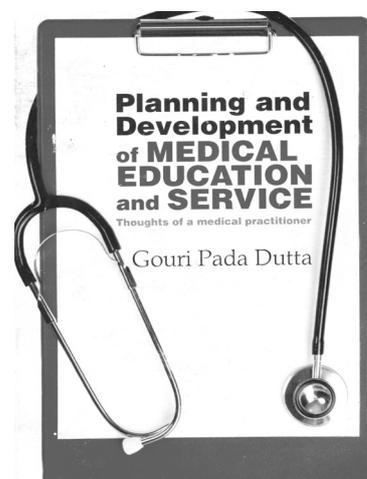
Book Review

Planning and Development of Medical Education and Service: Thoughts of a Medical Practitioner

Author : Gouri Pada Dutta

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Reviewed by: Anil Kumar Ghosh



The book "Planning and Development of Medical Education and Service: Thoughts of a Medical Practitioner" is an excellent book written by Dr. Gouri Pada Dutta, an eminent medical system expert, medical practitioner cum medical teacher administrator and policy maker covering entire gamut of medical education right from its history of development, development model, evolution, planning, design research, teacher training curriculum development, suggestion for alternative model of medical education, Para-medical education and health-care for its citizens specially rural poor people along with medical ethics can be dubbed as a master piece.

The book contains 18 chapters dealing with various topics regarding medical education except two distinct chapters (1) Need for Innovative Programme for Development of Agriculture (2) Not Unhistoric although not relevant to the title of the book but are highly informative, innovative and must read. A brief history of noncodified medicine has been presented which I believe should be included in the curriculum of medical education in order to enable the students to be acquainted also with the traditional Indian system apart from Ayurveda.

Various committee reports from time to time have been mentioned along with author's valuable suggestions for the improvement of the model of which rather he was the prime mover deserve special appreciation. The

committee's recommendations of the model by persuading experts at different levels and subsequently by the government of India for implementation at the state level were his earnest endeavour although not materialized. The bold and doughty author even suggested the closure of private medical institutions and reduction of top heavy specialists and over production of personnel trained in superspecialities and is strongly against the commercialization and privatization of medical education and health care.

The author has given detailed guidelines for the curriculum development and teacher training which are important components of medical education system. Very structured exhaustive objective hints for framing curriculum for paramedical training and education, an essential component of the whole system have been given for making community oriented and need based course content not only in regional but also in local languages are unique. If the author's suggestions are even partially implemented by the government reviewed by expert policy makers then I believe there will be a revolutionary change and development in medical education and training service.

The magnanimous author is pained to portray the pitiable plight of the health care system in our country and has given a fervent call for determined steps towards fierce health movement on the part of the community-

for asserting the fundamental rights of the poor people of the country. He desires that the doctors should respond to his call irrespective of any political, social, and cultural and economic background for the common good of the people at large in conformity with medical ethics honestly and religiously.

The history of and evolution of the concept of medical ethics is a unique chapter which is worth reading, assimilation, realization and must practicing by doctors and medical service providers. The relationship between doctors and patients is of sellers and buyers. The medical advice and treatment is not a profession now but business. It is a challenge to doctors to act as per Hippocratic Oath without acting according to the dictates of corporate houses in utter disregard of moral and ethical values. Medical ethics should be aggressively introduced in curriculum and ruthlessly implemented in practice.

The book is an essential reading for

The policy planners cum developers in medical education, Medicare and health care those who are directly or indirectly involved in and concerned with and interested in this as well as students and trainees in this arena who will be immensely benefited – I strongly believe.

A copy of the book may be sent to WHO for its perusal evaluation, any modification of it, if it feels so and then it may recommend for adoption of the model for implementation in developing and underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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