



SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Report On

Workshop on Uniform Implementation of Competency Based Curriculum Across the State of ASSAM: Opportunities and Challenges



Venue : Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati
Date: 17th & 18th October, 2022

Executive Summary

A distinctive State- Level two days Workshop on “Uniform Implementation of Competency Based Medical Education Curriculum across the State of Assam: Opportunities and Challenges” was organized by the Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, Assam on 17th and 18th October, 2022 at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.

At the backdrop of curricular change in the of the MBBS UG course in the Country, SSUHS has promulgated on uniform routine and lesson plan across all the Medical Colleges of the State so that same classes are held on the same day all across and there is uniformity in teaching and assessments. In view of the apparent unpreparedness among the implementers in comprehending the curricular changes, limited training opportunities and many other related factor, it was a felt need to appraise the stakeholders and to bring them on board to a common platform to discuss the uniform implementation of the CBME across all Medical Colleges in the State in a thread bare manner. The Workshop provided a medium to the Principals, Head of the Departments, Medical Education Unit Coordinators, Curriculum Committee Members and Members of Regional Centre to express their views, concerns, opinion, challenges and opportunity faced and to provide suggestions and share their experience on the implementation of the Curriculum in their respective Colleges.

The two days conclave was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Assam, **Sjt. Keshab Mahanta** in presence of Hon’ble Vice Chancellor **Professor Dhruba Jyoti Borah**, Dr Siddharth Singh, IAS, Commissioner



Lamp lighting ceremony by Sri. Keshab Mahanta, Hon’ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Assam

and Secretary, Medical Education and Research Department, Government of Assam, **Professor Anup Kumar Barman**, DME, Assam, Resource persons, Principals of all Medical Colleges and myriad of

faculty members. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor delivered the welcome address and described the purpose of the meeting while the other dignitaries also emphasized on the need for providing quality education to the students. Dr Sujit Bordhan, Registrar SSUHS, proposed the vote of thanks.

To provide deeper insights of CBME and its components and implementation thereof, to the esteemed gathering, two Resource persons of National and International repute were invited. Professor Dinesh Badyal from Cristian Medical College, Ludhiana and Professor Chetna Desai from B J Medical College along with faculties from NMC Regional Centre- Jorhat Medical College deliberated on various issues like capacity building for implementation of new curriculum, Skills training and Assessment, Electives, Clerkship Program, Time table in CBME in addition to Workshops on Self-directed learning and Assessment.



Professor Dinesh Badyal



Professor Chetna Desai

The Principals of all the Colleges shared their experiences on shouldering the responsibility of implementation of new curriculum amidst the countless challenges and also offered solution to the issues faced. Few students were also given the opportunity to express their thoughts and experiences.

The workshop was attended by nearly 217 participants who actively participated in the discussions. Their concerns were allayed by the resource persons to a great extent.

Over all, this workshop was the need of the hour for a reality check to all the stakeholders who are involved in the implementation of academics in the Colleges across the State. This novel workshop was pertinent in bringing everyone in the State on board in fulfilling the National Goal of creating the Indian Medical Graduate who would be the “Physician of First Contact” for the Community. This task is immensely grave in nature and this workshop was successful in translating the message that quality of medical education and thereby the quality of graduates in Assam will chiefly depend of capacity building of the faculties, inter and intra departmental coordination, roles to be played by the Medical Education Units and the Curriculum Committee members in its implementation and monitoring and the overall proactive role of SSUHS.

Chief Guest



Sjt. Keshab Mahanta

Minister of Health &
Family Welfare, Assam

Chief Guest



Dr. Siddharth Singh, IAS

Commissioner & Secretary,
Medical Education & Research
Department, Govt of Assam



Dr. Anup Kr. Barman

Director of Medical Education,
Govt. of Assam



Dr. Chetna Desai

Professor and Head of
Pharmacology,
B. J. Medical College,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Dr. Dinesh K. Badyal

Director, CMCL-FAIMER
Regional Institute and
Convener, NMC Nodal Centre for
Faculty Development,
Christian Medical College,
Ludhiana

After the inauguration session all the Principals of the different Medical Colleges present their views regarding CBME curriculum.

Gauhati Medical College : The Principal opined the following points-

- Flexibility of time table and Syllabus should be from the University.
- Routine to be prepared at the institution level as many local issues are there so Impossible to cope up with the common time table. Further, due to separate location of Hospital and College Campus, it is not possible to maintain the central time table.

Assam Medical College : Principal suggested that for Syllabus and Routine making one forum/society in each department with Members of the all Medical Colleges, about 24 departments should be established.

Silchar Medical College :

- To reduce number of holidays and to make holiday list centrally by the University.
- Foundation course to be reduced from 30 days to 15 days.
- Sometimes it is difficult to follow the central routine because of local issues like recent flood situation in Barak Vally.
- OSPE/OSCE model of examinations can not be followed due to limited faculties.

Jorhat Medical College :

- Lack of space for small group discussions and faculties are also not sufficient.
- Students take unauthorised leave.
- There should be some flexibilities in central routine.
- Resistance of faculties to accept the change.
- Inadequate intra departmental co-ordination.

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College : Opined that students remain absent with unauthorized leave – need disciplinary action, uniform rule for all. Dermatology and Psychiatry have only one faculty each.

Tezpur Medical College :

- Rigidity – date wise time table difficulty to accommodate, local unplanned issues arise. Further inadequate number of faculties.
- If there are sudden change of central roster & Internal Assesment times, it becomes very difficult to manage.
- Clubbing of too many SDL & SGD topics in a single class.
- Master Time Table should reach in time.
- Skill management classes as computer, language etc. take up lot of hours in routine at the cost of important relevant medical topics.
- Examination fee to be reduced (by changing the CAP).

Diphu Medical College : The routine contains less class for Dissection. More students, less body.

Lakhimpur Medical College : Less faculties.

Dhubri Medical College :

- Flexibility of Routine should be there.
- There is need for more paramedical support.
- Monetary support for faculty training should be provided.

Vice Chancellor:

After hearing all the principals who stressed on an amount of local autonomy within the ambit of the common routine, the Vice Chancellor opined that as the experimental basis for one years, the following measures can be taken.

- The routine will be for every trimester.
- The topics to be taught subject wise (lesson plan) shall be fixed by University.
- The numbers of teaching lessons for each topic shall be fixed.
- The college will have the autonomy to fix the classes as per their convenience to accommodate that needs.
- University exam shall be conducted by University.
- Internal assessment trimester wise the theory papers shall be set by University so that there is a common standard paper as per curriculum.
- Internal assessment and theory papers and practical should be conducted by the college in fixed date and marks given to university by fixed date by the colleges.



*Prof. (Dr.) Dhruba Jyoti Borah,
Vice Chancellor, SSUHS*

The meeting also discussed the following common Issues –

- Almost all the new college have less number of faculties. Not all of them are trained. They also mention for sponsorship for faculty training because fees are high. Usually, they go for Revised Basic Course workshop for which is important for their promotion. Most of the Senior teacher are reluctant to go for FAIMER.
- Over stressed to students – attending classes for 8 AM to 6 AM which may leads to distress – Result in poor performance by the students.
- Less class/period for dissection, More students less body. This problem needs to be solved.
- Students usually take unauthorised leaves during Puja, Diwali, Bihu etc. So, this needs a permanent solution to all these problems
- A Central Committee should be formed including faculties of all the departments from various institute for making the master Routine.
- Trimester result should be out in time so that remedial measures can be taken.

Early clinical exposure – Without having theoretical knowledge early clinical exposure may not be so much useful, so as to reduce the time allotted for foundation cause. Need space for Communication learning some of the members expressed opinion.

Some faculties expressed their opinion that – Computer language etc. take up lots of hours in routine at the cost of important relevant Medical topics.

The workshop was attended by about 217 participants from all the Medical Colleges of Assam. Workshop was successful one. All the Query were discussed and answer nicely by the two guest resources faculties and member of our own Regional Centre. The regional center also explained how the common routine was arrived at democratically as per norms after widest possible consultation.

For the first time a state level two days workshop in Uniform implantation of CBME across the state of Assam opportunities and challenges was organized by SSUHS Assam on 17th & 18th October, 2022 at Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.

University plans to arrange such type of workshop again so that the quality of education improve in all the Medical College uniformly and to produce Best Quality of Doctors/Physicians who can bring name and fame nationally and internationally.

Guest Faculty Dr. Dinesh K Badyal gave speech on different types of Assessment Programme and its objective, methods. He gave a practical demonstration with the five nos of student volunteers on the stage, with the help of mobile phone, on self directed learning (SDL) and the topic covered was the Pharmaco-therapy of Parkinsonism , atopic student learned in SDL, is not to be repeated in theory class, and the students will update their knowledge on Parkinsonism in SDL. He also spoke on Early Clinical Exposure (ECE) and its innovations. Guest Faculty Dr. Chetna Desai spoke on OSPE OSCE and DOPS system of Examination with help of station models in detail.



The meeting ended with a validity function presided over by the Director of Medical Education Assam and participated by the Principals of all Medical Colleges of Assam; convenor, NMC, Regional Center Guest Resource Person on the dais. The discussions done in the workshop were summarized and final inputs from all faculties were noted to be brought for further action of the University.



Vote of thanks was delivered by the Registrar (Academic), SSUHS

Snapshots

