

Education Reforms in ASU&H Systems

Dr.V.V.Prasad

Director

Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth
(Deptt. of AYUSH, Govt. of India)

New Delhi

Objectives of Education

- To produce Confident Physicians - to shoulder challenges of health care
- To produce Credible Researchers - to address issues of development of ASU&H systems
- To produce Able Teachers - to impart quality training to the students of ASU&H systems

Issues for consideration

1. Regulatory System:

- Minimum standards of requirement.
- Minimum standards of education (Curricula & Syllabi).

2. Infrastructure:

- Ensuring infrastructure and man power in both government and private colleges.

Issues

3. Requirement of Qualified and Committed Teachers:

- Fewer teachers than stipulated
- Teachers on contract basis
- Poor salaries
- No incentives and avenues of motivation and competitiveness

4. Standard of Colleges:

- Lack of proper infrastructure and staffing pattern
- Quality of instructions
- Resulting in mushroom growth of sub-standard colleges.

Issues

5. Re-look at Curriculum and Course Content:

- Curriculum imitative of allopathy curriculum
- Course content repetitive.
- Lacking basic information and proper applicability.
- Examination system compromised.
- Remedial measure can be re-setting of syllabus & Reverting to yearly curriculum with 6-month internship.

Solutions

1. Upgradation of UG/PG AYUSH education

A) to make it more relevant to health problems of the country

- training in national health problems
- dissemination of scientific research outcome on different diseases

Solutions

1. Upgradation of UG/PG AYUSH education

B) to make curricula appealing to students with science background having good academic record.

- outlining the syllabi of ASU&H and modern medicine with separate classes, examination and marks.
- modern medicine components be dealt by allopathic doctors
- emphasis on practical demonstrations.
- practical-oriented teaching methodology with classical methods of principles and practices of ASU&H.

Solutions

2. Upgradation of AYUSH Teaching Methodology:

A) Increasing interface with modern sciences

- Systems be made contemporary
- Teaching methodology by professional & dedicated bodies
- PG institutions to concentrate on specialized education, and separate research departments for research on issues of national priority.

Solutions

2. Upgradation of AYUSH Teaching Methodology:

B) Increasing research component in UG/PG education

- Research methodology by professional bodies
- Research results of Councils, Institutes and PG Institutes to UG courses
- Orientation on current medical advancements, Utilization of IT, modern technology & tools

Solutions

3. Streamlining of CME for AYUSH personnel/Guru Shishya Tradition:

- A) Selection of teachers having aptitude for teaching
- B) Updation of professional knowledge through periodical In-service training
- C) Short-term training under eminent physicians in special skills

Solutions

3. Streamlining of CME for AYUSH personnel/Guru Shishya Tradition:

D) Linking with career opportunities like promotions etc.

E) Linking with renewal of registration

F) By selective institutions on regional basis

G) Private institutions having good infrastructure may tie up with scientific institutions

Solutions

3. Streamlining of CME for AYUSH personnel/Guru Shishya Tradition:

H) Training of trainers

I) Programmes as per modules

J) System to cover all practitioners of ASU&H for CME programmes.

K) Holding of intra- and inter- institutional workshops

L) Training of interneees under local eminent ASU&H practitioners

Solutions

4. Clinical Training component in UG/PG Courses:

A) Teaching hospitals with beds, infrastructure, staff.

B) Diagnosis and treatment in ASU&H accepted principles

C) Modern diagnostic techniques to required extent

D) Satellite OPDs to serve villages and to admit patients for bed-side training

E) Rural postings to interns and doctors

Solutions

5. Action Plan : Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Strategies:

A) Total revamping of curriculum, syllabus and examination system.

B) Teaching from original scriptures rather than text books in ASU.

C) Study of Sanskrit in Ayurveda and Persian and Arabic for Unani.

D) Teaching of modern medicine to the minimum (20-25%) and by allopathy doctors.

E) Govt. to take steps with MCI for removing constraints for taking part-time services of allopathy teachers.

Solutions

5. Action Plan : Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Strategies:

F) Teachers:

- Minimum 3 teachers in each department
- Periodical CME
- Establishment of MET Centres/
TT Institutes
- Assessment of teachers
- Opportunities for competitiveness,
timely merit-based promotions and
UGC pay scales

Solutions

5. Action Plan : Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Strategies:

- Action against erring institutions and teachers
- Govt. to evolve monitoring mechanism of colleges
- Establishment of Medical Informatics Centers in Centres of Excellence, Model Colleges, National Institutions and identified better colleges.

Solutions

5. Action Plan : Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Strategies:

- Opportunities to ASU&H graduates for admission to system-neutral non-clinical post-graduate medical courses like Anaesthesia, Radio-diagnosis, Optometry, Hospital Management etc.
- Starting of One-year post-graduate Diploma courses in specializations for ASU&H graduates at university level for those interested to settle in clinical practice.

Suggestions

1. **Regulatory Body:**

Govt. may amend Acts to -

A) get only academicians and persons of high repute elected to councils.

B) prevent mushroom growth of sub-standard colleges

C) get Councils to indicate clear-cut operating procedures for functionaries and members

D) watch that Councils do not work outside their scope and ensure efficient functioning

Suggestions

1. **Regulatory Body:**

Functions of Councils should be -

- Registration of ASU&H practitioners and monitoring of ASU &H practice
- Recommendation of minimum standards of duration, subjects, gross capital infrastructure, examination system, period of internship, OPD & IPD facilities, beds and occupancy rate, teaching faculty and their qualifications and in-service training of personnel related to UG/PG course
- Inspections should be once in five years
- Regular control of colleges left to universities
- Equal salaries to teachers of ASU&H in govt as well as private colleges.

Suggestions

2. Role of State Governments:

- Before permitting a new college/ increase of seats, State governments create employment opportunities
- Provide financial assistance to colleges in State for quality output
- Create & fill all posts in state owned colleges & hospitals as per Councils' norms
- Provide pay scales to teachers as per UGC/ on par with allopathy counter parts
- Create AYUSH Directorates
- Identify Local health traditions and incorporate in UG/PG courses

Suggestions

3. Role of Universities:

- Regular monitoring of ASU&H education through prescribing course curricula, syllabi, training modules, examination system, faculty levels, infrastructure etc.
- Aptitude test while admitting students to ASU&H courses
- Full academic control of all affiliated colleges
- Establish Medical Education Training (MET) centre in universities.

Suggestions

4. Setting up of Regional ASU&H Universities:

- Establishment of centrally funded regional ASU&H universities for over all development of these systems
- National institutes may be upgraded to Deemed University status.
- These universities must promote trans-disciplinary education and research for integration with allopathy and other sciences like BHU for fundamental research and evidence-based studies.

Suggestions

5. Setting up of Accreditation System:

- Establishment of accreditation system for ranking and gradation of institutions and conduct examination to assess quality of graduates/postgraduates
- This will help in facilitating government to select institutions for financial assistance, parents to admit their children in better colleges and check decline in educational standards and ensure quality of training

Suggestions

5. Setting up of Accreditation System:

- Help institutions select worthy persons for various jobs like teaching, research, drug manufacturing and patient care
- All colleges may be asked to get accreditation from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Suggestions

6. Setting up of National Institutes (along the lines of IIT/IIM):

- This may allow human resource development for education, research and practice of ASU&H through various fellowship programmes like Masters, Ph.D. and post-doctoral fellowships.

Thanks