



MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SEVAGRAM

MAJOR CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS AT MGIMS

Value inculcation in Orientation Camp:

Immediately after admission into the MBBS course students spend a fortnight in the Gandhi ashram during the orientation camp. Students stay in dormitories. The curriculum followed in the Orientation Camp has an inbuilt component of values, attitude building and ethics.



Well known Gandhians and renowned people from all walks of life interact with them during this duration and inspire them to find the humanistic dimensions of their choice of becoming a health professional. Besides regular classes on Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry, students are taught about the relevance of Gandhian ideology in today's world with reference to personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, gender equality, nutrition, environmental issues, sustainability, and spiritual health. The roles of yoga and nature cure are discussed. They are thus helped to appreciate the humanistic dimensions of their profession. The students engage in self-help by washing their own utensils and cleaning their own clothes.



The importance of dignity of labour is impressed upon them with activities like performing shramdan or spinning khadi. Students also participate in all-religion prayers. Separate workshops on bioethics and communication skills are conducted in this phase.

Village Adoption Scheme and Social Service Camp:



MGIMS Sevagram has an old tradition of adopting a village for each batch of medical students. Students of I MBBS spent a fortnight in their adopted village. During the duration of the social service camp, each student is allotted 4-5 families for their camp activities. They live with the villagers, visit their adopted families daily and interact with them. For most students, this experience comes as an eye-opener as it is often their first exposure to the woes of rural India. The camp is organized with the cooperation of villagers.

The Institute extends its health care services free of cost to the village for the duration of the social service camp. Complete health check-up of all the villagers is conducted. Hematological, urine and

stool investigations are carried out for each villager and those who are found to have any abnormality in these investigations are provided free treatment. General OPD is run each day in the morning, and specialist visits are organized in the afternoon. The camping students ensure that all members in their adopted families get complete treatment for their ailments. Those who require hospital admission are also provided treatment free of cost if they get admitted to the Kasturba Hospital Sevagram during the duration of camp or within 7 days of completion of the camp.



Students get a chance to see the impact of environment, ecology, education and economy on health during these 15 days. With the help of interns and staff of MGIMS they conduct socio-demographic, dietary and health appraisals in their adopted families. The students also observe how community leaders, social organizations and village health committees work together for health. The roles of village health workers, village health committees, school teachers and other stakeholders are demonstrated. This community-academic partnership offers a unique opportunity to learn the social and cultural determinants of health. Thus, the village serves as a laboratory and a demonstration centre for the students to learn the practice of public health. The concept of family health care is brought home to students with the help of auxiliary nursing midwives, social workers, health educators, sanitary inspectors, psychologists and public health physicians working in the villages.



Following the Social Service Camp, for the next three and a half years, the students visit their adopted village every month on a Saturday. In the first year, the students study personal hygiene, basic sanitation, housing, immunization, diet, nutrition, growth and development. During the subsequent period, groups of students undertake improvement projects on topics of sanitation, drinking water, nutrition, personal hygiene, immunization and other relevant issues. The bond between the adopted families and the students is strong and alumni often visit these families when they come for their silver jubilee reunion programmes.

Reorientation of Medical Education (ROME) Camp



A field camp lasting for two weeks is organized for students, during their third year in the medical college. The students stay at one of the Rural Health Training Centres of MGIMS, Sevagram. The camp is organized with the objectives; 1) to expose students to the health care delivery system; other support systems available in the community and implementation of national health programs at PHC level; 2) to make students understand the effect of family and social environment in the etiology of diseases; community beliefs and practices related to health and illnesses; and treatment-seeking practice; 3) to expose students to commonly used survey methodology for community need assessment.

During this camp, the students visit different levels of health care facilities and interact with health care providers. Through this, they are exposed to the functioning of a primary health centre and the roles of its various staff members. District level program managers for various national health programmes discuss with them implementation of national health programmes; their strengths; and barriers and challenges in implementation of these programmes.



Clinical case discussion is organized at the family level through which attention of students is drawn to the influence of social and environmental factors in the causation of disease. Students also come to understand the common community beliefs and practices related to health and illness and treatment seeking practices of the community.

The students design and conduct small community surveys for community health need assessment in rural area. Through these surveys, they become acquainted with the collection, entry and analysis of data and with report writing. Their insight gained into essential national health research (ENHR) through the ENHR workshop and project conducted in their adopted village is further enhanced.

Internship training

Interns are posted in the Department of Community Medicine for two months out of their 12 months internship period. During this period they are posted at General OPD, Kasturba Rural Health Training Centre (KRHTC) Anji & Bhidi and Urban Health Centre as well as in Melghat. The setting at Sevagram provides them with an opportunity not only to learn management of illnesses at individual level, but also learn organization and functioning of Primary Health Centre & various National Health Programmes.

Essential community-based national health research:



To build research aptitude and interest in priority health topics among undergraduate students, they are provided opportunities to participate in conducting community-based research on priority health topics (Essential National Health Research). To orient undergraduate students to research methodology, initially a two-day workshop is organized for students. The workshop aims at providing the students knowledge and skills on 'asking the right question', 'designing an appropriate study design to answer the question', 'searching relevant literature' and 'writing a protocol' for carrying out a project. During the workshop, students in groups identify a topic of their interest for further enquiry. The students conduct the project in groups in their adopted villages under the guidance of a faculty member from the Department of Community Medicine. Community-based projects, with the interventions related to behaviour change are encouraged, so that the community also gets benefited in this process. With the help of faculty members, the students perform data entry, analyze it and write a report for their project. Posting during Reorientation of Medical Education (ROME) Camp, of 15-days duration at the end of fifth semester, provides another opportunity to learn how to identify community needs using rapid survey methodology and qualitative research methods. Further, students also conduct research in all other departments under research schemes promoted by ICMR and MUHS.

MISCELLANEOUS

Besides these the curriculum modules as prescribed by NMC such as the AETCOM module, Early Clinical Exposure, Bioethics modules were also followed