

Editorial: Research and Development in Medical Education

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In recent years, medical education development has been significantly improved in Iran. More than 10 medical education journals are published periodically in Persian. Annual national conference which has been held for 15 years and accepts more than 500 abstracts each year is an opportunity for exchanging medical education experiences and new information. Every year, medical education festival is held to provide the results of educational scholarship in order to share the innovations in medical education. The question is that in this period of time why a medical education journal in English is required?

The evolvement of “Education Development Centers” (EDCs) in all medical sciences universities in Iran is one of the obvious reasons of progress in medical education. Indeed EDCs equal to Research and Development centers of education in the universities. The EDCs’ focus is either administrative issues or research on educational problems, priority setting, planning and evaluation. EDCs include educational evaluation and planning, faculty development, gifted and talented students, research in education and e-learning units.

For the time being, most of the EDCs have an active research center in education which offers research grant for faculty members and students who provide research projects for solving educational problems and meet the problems with innovations.

In recent years short and certificate-based teacher training courses and Master of medical education have been widely launched in the main universities of the country.

Providing educational scholarship is one of the conditions of academic promotion in medical sciences universities; despite its shortcomings in some cases, acceptable results, especially for those who are interested in educational topics have been obtained.

E-learning has been granted in various educational courses from undergraduate to post graduate and Continuous Medical Education (CME) in recent years. Distance and electronic learning has shown successful outcomes for the time being in CME programs. An e-learning conference is held annually to share the knowledge in this issue.

Publishing medical education journals is one of the activities of EDCs. The journals, majority of which are in Persian, are published in more than 15 out of the about 40 EDCs of the country.

According to this huge and valuable information and knowledge in medical education in this country and the unique structure of universities in Iran, integration of education and health services, there is a need to disseminate these information and knowledge all over the world. Since the aim of RDME journal is to share the local and international research outcomes, it will play an important role in exchanging the experiences among the various medical universities in the world. The journal covers all aspects of health care professionals’ education, and its universality makes it a highlight journal compared to the other related English journals in this subject in Iran.