

EDITORIAL

Co-Creation : Strengths, Limitations and Challenges

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Co-Creation is teachers and students taking mutual responsibility about teaching and learning (Dollinger, Lodge, & Coates, 2018). It is a relatively a new concept for the students and teachers in our part of the world. Traditionally, learning and teaching in medical colleges in Pakistan have been teacher centered and driven. The teachers decide the content, teaching and assessment methodology. No or very little input is taken from the students.

Over the last decade the practice has slowly and gradually moved in the direction of the student-centered learning. Many medical schools have started learning activities such as problem based learning, case-based learning, one minute preceptor etc., where the responsibility of learning is shared by the students. However, this change is less of a decision taken after the feedback of students but more of a part of global and local changes in the medical education arena.

Co-Creation is a step further than just adoption of student centered activities. Here the student's feedback about the content creation has a significant impact in the designing, development and delivery of the content. Co-Creation has its strengths and limitations. When the students are engaged in their own learning process, it engenders trust in them, give them an opportunity to demonstrate competence, and make them creative. It reinforces the values of shared responsibility and mutuality. It enhances the development of self-direction and allows students and teachers to navigate throughout the complexities of the academic content designing and development process (Lubicz-Nawrocka, 2018). But there are limitations to co creation as well. For instance, the fear of things going wrong if the collaboration of teachers and students does not produce the desired outcomes. There are challenges (Doyle, Buckley, & Whelan, 2019) like establishment of rapport between students and teachers and between students themselves. It includes establishing trust in the ability of the students regarding the decision of the content, learning methodology and assessment.

It is a common perception that students may take decisions to make the process of getting through the program easier for

themselves – thus compromising on the quality of education. On the other hand, the teachers also find it difficult to develop the educational program in collaboration with students as it requires extra time and effort.

The benefits of co-creation outweighs its limitations. In the recent past, many medical colleges in the country have adopted the student-centered approach towards teaching and learning. With proper planning and training of students and teachers, the hurdles and challenges can be overcome and co-creation can also be started in our medical colleges for more effective medical education.

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