

Editorial

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The differences between private and public becomes subtle when it comes to decision-making about the most appropriate venues for the training of medical personnel. A steady volume and variety of clinical material are of paramount importance. Then there is the need of committed teachers who are themselves keen students, coupling patient care with sincere efforts to update knowledge and skills. In this milieu, any interested student, with diligence, can achieve any goal he or she sets for him/herself.

Scrutiny and vigilance in the conduct of training programs in institutions are highly desirable, but these conditions should not apply selectively, as often happens in our scenario. Under the broad umbrella of “public” run institutions, many training programs continue to run with deficiencies that don’t seem to be accountable. The authorities that control various aspects of educational quality use heavy-handed and unreasonable approaches in dealing with so-called private training centers. Fair deals, easy procedural protocols, and an honest approach to genuinely promote the training process in public and private

institutions alike, would be a very positive step forward.

As the number of medical graduates increase to meet the overall requirements of the nation, the competition for the limited numbers of post-graduate teaching slots is going to be more acutely felt than ever before. The private institution and health care facilities spread throughout the country could play an important role in filling up the gaps for post-graduate training. Standardization of training facilities and ensuring a fair entrance and exit process for evaluation could play an important role in achieving a minimum uniform standard of education for all trainees at different institutions.

There are excellent examples where residency training programs in private institutions have been highly successful, initially in the USA and in the more recent past in neighboring India. Residents provide much-needed manpower for patient care and receive reasonable maintenance stipend through their period of training. The curse of capitation payments is eliminated in this system which however requires a commitment from all the parties at stake viz

the students, the teachers, and the institution wanting to participate in the training process. It is our hope that B & B hospital and HRDC can both continue to be

a part of this noble effort to provide quality services and also help address in some measure the specialized manpower requirement of the country.