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**Examination Reform: Not Only OSCE But Reform Selection of Teachers Also**

I read with interest the "Viewpoint" on examination reforms highlighting the role of teacher to help students to learn medicine in a better way(l). Although this article is focused on changes in undergraduate (UG) examination system, the same teachers are involved in Postgraduate (PG) examinations also, so similar deficiencies exist in these examinations also.

Identical concerns have also been raised by Gupta(2). In both articles(1,2), the remedy for shortcomings of present examination system is said to be OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) approach. It is true that poor assessment of students by teachers is one of the major factors in making "Compromised" quality of Pediatricians (as well as other specialists). In this context Mehta suggested two important rectifications during Postgraduate training programme(3): (i) Thesis writing can be replaced by writing of articles in medical Journals; and (ii) Utilization of teachers for teaching by pruning their unproductive activities. This suggestion specifically deserves discussion amongst policy makers and administrators so as to arrive at a consensus regarding use of medical teachers as "teachers" rather than busy practitioners.

The crucial issue is to improve the falling standards of medical education at UG as well as PG level. In my opinion, the root cause for this problem is poorly defined selection process to choose medical teachers, *i.e.*, lecturers. The selection process abso-
lutely lacks feedback to candidates interested in a teaching job thereby resulting usually into deliberate selection and non selection of undeserved and meritorious candidates, respectively. The selection procedure also allows many candidates to try various pushes and pulls (both financially and politically) to get entry into lecturership. Until this phenomenon is totally replaced by ethical selection of medical teachers, none of examination methods (conventional or OSCE or any other) is going to prove effective. Finally, it is for the "teacher" to efficiently utilize the evaluation system for the assessment of a student. Thus one of the fundamental step towards restoring grace of PG and UG examination should be to ensure honest selection of the right candidate as a "teacher".

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REFERENCES