

Editorial

IT IS THE TIME TO IMPROVE OUR TEACHING PROGRAMS

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Learning in general depends on essential prospects, or aims. These prospects determine the main frames of education programs and control the different schools that concerned with teaching processes. These prospects of learning processes could be one of the following:

- Learning is “to memorize special information”
- Learning is “Training of the mind to solve a problem”
- Learning is “Changing of the behavior to solve a problem”

The last prospect is the most acceptable one since it is the broadest meaning and covers the different aspects of the teaching processes (Gates). These learning processes should be continuous and need effort of training to reach the level that satisfy the subject and agree with his ambitions (Mursell). The learning processes are usually stimulated by either internal (privet) or external stimulus (Guilford).

Accordingly the aim of teaching Is to change the behavior in solving special problems

To reach this goal (changing the behavior of the subjects and community) we need special teaching programs. These programs have been developed and progresses with the expansion and progresses of the knowledge in the different fields of life. So different programs of teaching were emerged to arm the subject with the specialized skillfulness toward the different aspects of sciences that are essential to build the developed societies.

Six years ago USA found that the teaching programs in Japan and Korea are better than their program. Accordingly, a wide scientific conference under the title of (Nationality in danger) was committed in the presence of governmental representatives to discuss this

problem. Since, they believe that; if the graduated students in these two countries are better educated than the American then after ten years America will be in danger.

This is true because developments of countries depend on how much their employers are educated. Teaching programs are the method and the tool by which we can introduce the knowledge to the mind and make them effective in changing the behavior of the individual and finally the behavior of the community, so improving teaching programs will improve the community and their performance.

Medical education programs:

Medical education through the different historical steps passes through different method of teaching. It is started as training program between the teachers and one or more of his students, that was at the time of Avicenna and Al-Razi. With the development of the community and medical knowledge, this type of training becomes insufficient. Later on medical schools were established following different rules and different specialties. Moreover; the new technologies, the computers, and the internet opens a wide field in the progress of medical teaching.

Medical teaching at the time being dose not depends on a personal effort, but on many factors including the personal, social, financial, and even the political factors. Not only that but the introduction of the different instruments in the new diagnostic and therapeutic fields of medicine, make at least a minimum degree of knowledge in other sciences like computer, physics, electronics as essential requirements for the new doctors.

Medical teaching programs in Iraq:

As in most of the countries, different teaching systems were used in the different medical schools in Iraq:

- Annual system
- Semester system
- Topic and quarter system
- Problem solving technique

In practice, these systems were taken as a core then they are changed according to the practical availability of their needs from personals and equipments.

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Accordingly we can not compare which is better for our community due to the different factors included in the teaching programs starting from the score of the students passing through the standard of the college (equipment and staff) ending with the aim of that college.

In general although the standard of our graduated students seems to be good if not very good taking in consideration the results of competition when our student try to take their opportunity to

get a job or to complete their studies outside the country especially in the developed countries, but during the past decade a very wide steps in the developments of new technique in medicine, little if any changes in our teaching programs were done. This made our student knowledge deficit in these fields.

I think it is the time to re-evaluate our teaching program to overcome the defect and improve the good things in our teaching.