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EDITORIAL

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REVOLUTIONIZING EDUCATION: CRAFTING A PROGRESSIVE TEACHING METHODOLOGY FOR AYURVEDA UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

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In the realm of education, the teaching methodology employed plays a pivotal role in shaping the future practitioners of any field. Ayurveda, being a venerable science with roots deeply embedded in tradition, is ripe for a transformative teaching approach that marries ancient wisdom with contemporary educational practices.

The traditional guru-shishya parampara (teacher-student tradition) has been the cornerstone of Ayurvedic education. While the essence of this sacred relationship must be preserved, there is a pressing need to integrate modern teaching methods into Ayurveda undergraduate courses. This editorial explores the imperative of evolving teaching methodologies to enhance the learning experience for aspiring Ayurvedic practitioners.

To begin with, incorporating interactive and technology-driven learning tools can breathe new life into Ayurvedic classrooms. Virtual simulations, augmented reality, and e-learning modules can provide students with a dynamic and immersive educational experience. These tools not only make complex concepts more accessible but also align Ayurvedic education with contemporary pedagogical standards. Ensuring a minimum standard of hands-on training in the management of common illnesses and life-saving techniques is imperative. Every institution

ought to give priority to setting up skill labs. Additionally, meticulous records of both supervised and independent cases handled should be maintained. Training encompassing medicine preparation, plant biology, anatomy, slide preparation, microscopic studies, field visits, role-playing, demonstrations, and group discussions should be integral components of the curriculum. Furthermore, the development of innovative teaching methods incorporating concepts like reverse pharmacology, network pharmacology, in silico models, biochemistry, and video lectures is essential.

Furthermore, a case-based learning approach can be instrumental in bridging the gap between theory and practical application. Real-life scenarios, patient case studies, and hands-on experiences can empower students to apply theoretical knowledge in clinical settings, fostering a deeper understanding of Ayurvedic principles and practices.

In addition to technological advancements, an interdisciplinary curriculum is paramount. Collaborations with experts in fields such as modern medicine, nutrition, psychology, and research methodology can enrich the learning journey. Exposure to diverse perspectives will equip Ayurvedic graduates with a holistic understanding of healthcare, enabling them to collaborate seamlessly with professionals from various disciplines.

Practical training should not be confined to the classroom. Internship programs, clinical rotations, and opportunities for community engagement can provide students with invaluable real-world experiences. Exposure to diverse clinical settings, including modern healthcare institutions, ensures that Ayurvedic graduates are well-prepared for the complexities of the contemporary healthcare landscape.

To nurture critical thinking and research skills, integrating research methodology courses into the curriculum is essential. Encouraging students to participate in research projects, both within Ayurveda and in collaboration with other medical disciplines, can contribute to the evolution of Ayurvedic knowledge and its integration into evidence-based healthcare practices.

Finally, fostering a mentorship culture can enhance the personalized guidance that has been a hallmark of Ayurvedic education. Establishing mentorship programs where experienced practitioners guide students in their academic and professional journey can instill a sense of continuity with the traditional guru-shishya relationship. Dr. Devi Shetty emphasized during his speech at the Republic Summit that the National Medical Commission (NMC) should prioritize the utilization of skilled practitioners for teaching medical students. This principle should be

embraced wholeheartedly within the field of Ayurveda as well. Such competency based learning of optional subjects along with facility to get guided by the skilled expert would lead students to acquiring greater proficiency and practical skills.

Apart from these updates in curriculum, teachers training should be integral part for those aspiring academic career just like passing national eligibility test. These require development of master trainers, training modules and organizing these activities through out the year to meet the needs. Uniform national guidelines on developing teaching modules and class room standards should be included as minimal standard requirements.

In conclusion, the time is ripe for a paradigm shift in the teaching methodology for Ayurveda undergraduate courses. Embracing innovation, integrating technology, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and emphasizing practical experiences will not only elevate the quality of education but also empower the next generation of Ayurvedic practitioners to navigate the complexities of modern healthcare with confidence and competence. It is through such progressive educational approaches that the timeless wisdom of Ayurveda can be seamlessly woven into the fabric of contemporary healthcare practices.

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