

**Editorial:****APTITUDE TESTS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION****Dr Janardan Bhatt**

In India, Medical education is proud of both for in past and present. About 5 to 10 percentage of doctors in US and UK are medical graduates of India .Many of them are eminent doctors medical scientists and specialists . India is a country producing largest number of medical graduates in world. Many foreigners are coming India only for medical /treatment purposes only . Long before the world started talking about Harvard and Cambridge, when Royal Colleges were not heard of, India had given birth to a civilization that gave immense importance to the medical sciences as well as doctors.. Gurukuls of Vedic period provided training in medical science. It has been claimed that students came from distant lands to study medicine in Nalanda and Taxsila. Most of the rulers took steps to encourage medical education. After the arrival of the British the modern medicine was introduced. The first medical college was set up in 1835 in Kolkata. Many more were established in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20th century. To day in India there ar more than 400 medical colleges. And it is trend the increasing number medical colleges and number of medical students in many medical colleges to make doctor-patient ratio near the WHO standard .To solve this problem a new issues has raised i.e. method of Selection of students , assessment System, Syllabus, Skilled Teachers, teacher student ratio ,privatization. For making better medical education System significant measures have already also taken i.e. reforms of curriculum for creating socially committed and skilled doctors ,competency based medical education ,ATCOM model for communication skills and leadership , Problem based learning , use of newer teaching technology in class rooms integration of various medical subjects. Medical research is also encouraged along with new medical teaching methods and clinical skills .These measures are really welcome and greatly appreciated by medical colleges .Simultaneously it is the responsibility medical education system to see that doctors with right attitude and right aptitude are produced. And this issue can be well tackled by implementing the aptitude tests at level of premedical admission. It is worth to note the observations by experts seriously that the relationship of preadmission academic grades as implemented now is not well correlated to long term outcome measures doctors performance and further clarification is needed .Some academicians also have observed that the grades of students may not be well associated with their performance as future doctor. As present majority of preadmission test assess cognitive domain in the form of attending Multiple choice questions .At this stage aptitude tests can be implicated.

Aptitude tests are the tests designed to measure the ability of a person to develop skill. In many parts of UK and many countries, the aptitude has been introduced in UG and even PG admission including selection teaching faculties. Many Medical College Admission Tests (MCAT) are available and each need validation and modification for further use in particular country' need. Aptitude for medical education require the professional and social need of a countries and values of that time and context. Ideal aptitude test find out the latent, potential, the undeveloped capacities of students. The aptitude tests try to find our the ability to acquire skill and knowledge unconsciously. Aptitude can be inborn and develop during early growth and development period of life .Every one have different aptitude but it can not change with training that is why aptitude tests are required before medical admission. Aptitude is totally

different faculty of mind and brain and independent of intelligent, memory ....There are different types of aptitude and all may exist in different proportion in an individual .Aptitude is an existing abilities which determine future of an individual .Such aptitude can be further developed by training. It is a potential energy and by proper training it is converted in dynamic energy.

The aptitude tests are useful for education organization for admission and selection of students and staff with right aptitude especially for professional education i.e. medical education. For both physical and mental i.e. objective aptitude tests have been developed and more are under evaluation and research. There are about thirteen aptitudes depending upon abilities i.e. verbal, mechanical, social, musical....So each and every individual have some form of in built aptitude and if given opportunities to develop that aptitude the individual is successful in that field and vice a verse. It is like doing the thing one like and not doing which one does not like to do. There are dangers of sending the individual /students in field which he/she does not like. One the other hand if we want a very bright future of medical sciences we need to implement and admit right students with right aptitude in medical sciences. Now numbers of valid aptitudes tests for medical admission are available and many countries are already using it successfully. It is educational policy makers to decide. Some academicians have started thinking of assessing the psychomotor and affective domain in preadmission tests. Though these are the future issues but the today our problem is well tackled by adding well planned aptitude tests in pre medical admission test.

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