

Present Academic Status of the Department of Medicine in Different Medical Colleges of Bangladesh

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Background

- The concept of clinical teaching lies at the heart of medical education.
- The main goal of clinical teaching is to improve the professional education, to transmit knowledge, to impart skills and to inculcate the values of the profession.

- In Bangladesh, there are 66 medical colleges of which 22 are government run and 44 are run by nongovernment organizations.
- Each medical college has their own department of Medicine which provides medical education to large group of students.

- Each year about 2500 students are admitted in the government medical colleges. Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) provide some definite prerequisite to establish proper environment of medical education e.g. adequate professorial staffs, teaching facility, adequate number of beds and sufficient instruments.

- For the last two years, a good number of medical colleges have been established. But, it seems to be difficult to fulfill all the requirements of BMDC. Only a few, old established medical colleges have such opportunity to fulfill them.

- A large number of students are graduated every year from different medical colleges. So, due to lack of adequate clinical exposure and other requirements there is naturally a big discrepancy among students of different institutions.

Materials & Methods

- A cross sectional observational study.
- The objective was to explore the present physical facilities and academic environment of department of Medicine & to identify the constraints of its improvement.

- The Medicine departments of all the medical Colleges were included in this study; of them 22 were government and 44 were private. The allied branches of Medicine were excluded.
- The study period was 6 months after approval of the protocol.

- The concerned departments of all 66 medical colleges were offered a predesigned questionnaire.
- 27 of them responded. Of the responders, 13 were 'government' and 14 were 'nongovernment' medical colleges.
- The collected data were duly entered, processed & analyzed. Interpretations were made subsequently.

- The government medical Colleges were regarded as Code A and Private Medical Colleges as Code B.

Result

Table 1: Number of Medicine units, students and student bed ratio

		Code A (N ₁ = 13)	Code B (N ₂ = 14)
Average Number of Functioning Unit		4.7 (Total 62 units in 13)	2.31 (Total 30 units in 14)
Average Number of students admitted per year		162.23 (Total 2109 students each year)	100.77 (Total 1310 students in each year)
Pass rate (%)	2011	80.06%	70.61%
	2012	79.48%	70.56%
	2013	73.18%	74.66%
Student Bed Ratio		1:5.53(total 2109 students : total 11660 beds)	1: 5.23 (total 1310 students: total 6934 beds)

Table 2: Teaching & other staffs

Teaching and other staffs	Code A (N ₁ =13) Average (n/N ₁)	Code B (N ₂ = 14) Average (n/N ₂)
Professor	2.31 (Total 30 in 13)	1.93 (Total 27 in 14)
Associate Professor	3.69 (Total 48 in 13)	1.57 (Total 22 in 14)
Assistant Professor	4.31 (Total 56 in 13)	1.79 (Total 25 in 14)
Resident Physician (RP)	0.92 (Total 12 in 13)	0.50 (Total 7 in 14)
Registrar	6.69 (Total 87 in 13)	2.57 (Total 36 in 14)
Assistant registrar	09 (Total 117 in 13)	2.71 (Total 38 in 14)
Residents/MO	13.38 (Total 174 in 13)	7.85 (Total 98 in 14)
Office Secretary/ Assistant	0.23(Total 3 in 13)	0.86(Total 12 in 14)
Ancillary staffs (except security)	38.31 (total 498 in 13)	15.93 (total 223 in 14)

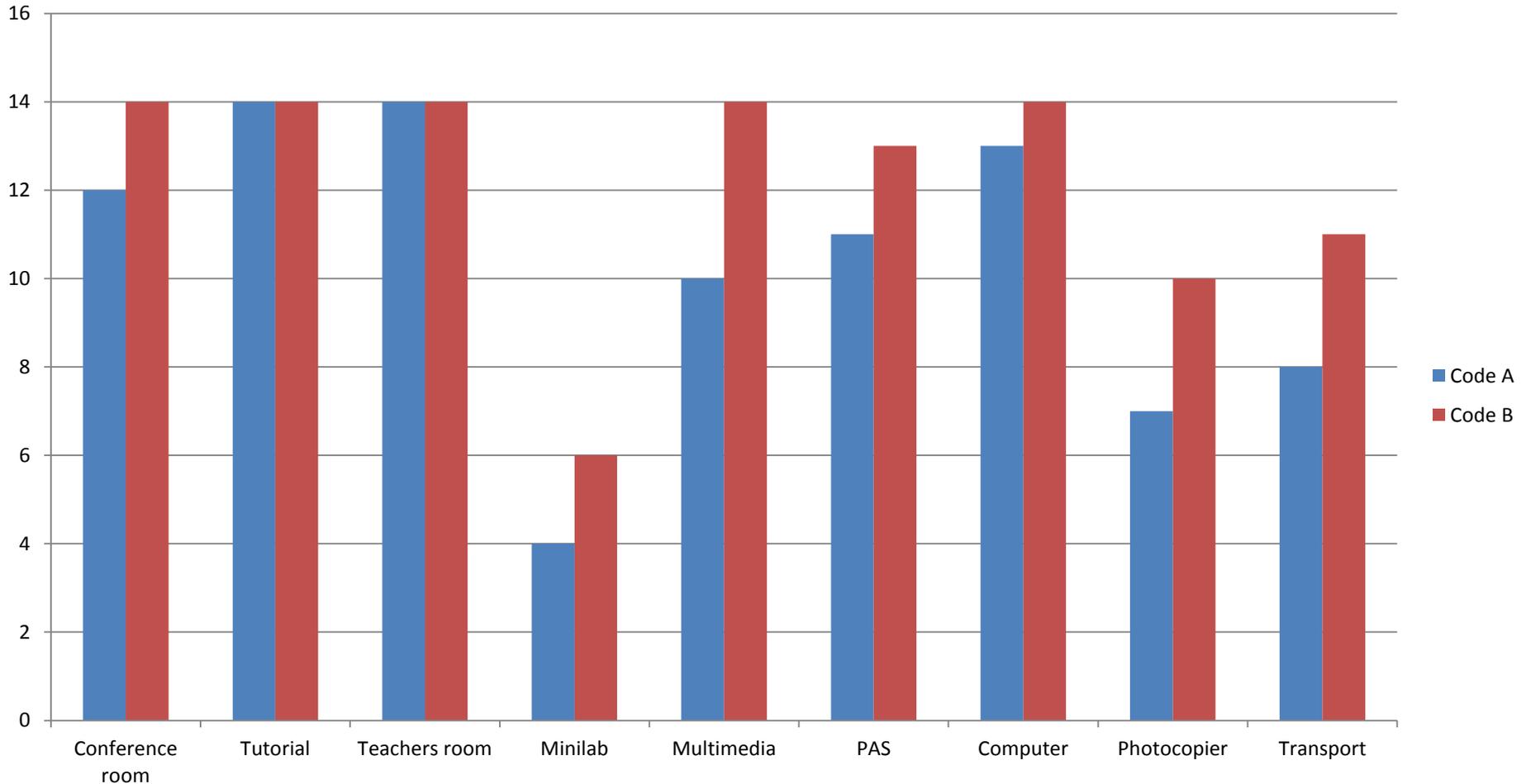
Table 3a: Academic activities

Academic activities	Code A (N ₁ = 13) Yes (%)	Code B(N ₂ = 14) Yes (%)
Lecture Attendance register	100	100
Clinical Attendance register	100	100
Evening class register	85 (11 out of 13)	93 (13 out of 14)
Academic calendar by date, time, topic and teacher	100	93 (13 out of 14)
Clinical class register by date, time, topic and teacher	100	100
Evening class schedule by date, time and teacher	93 (12 out of 13)	79 (11 out of 14)

Table 3b: Academic Activities (Contd.)

Academic Activities	Code A ($N_1 = 13$) Average (n/N_1)	Code B ($N_2 = 14$) Average (n/N_2)
Average no. of lecture class schedule last week	5.15 (Total 67)	5.14 (Total72)
Average no. of lecture class held last week	5 (Total 65 in 13)	5.10 (Total 71 in 14)
Average no. of clinical class held last week	6	6
Average no. of evening class held last week	5.76 (Total 75)	5.21 (Total 73)
Number of Medical Colleges where integrated class held last year	7	4
Schedule of clinical meeting by date and time	13	14
Schedule of journal club by date and time	11	12
Number of publications by the department	8.46 (Total 110)	2.78 (Total 39)
Number of national/international presentations	4.62 (Total 60)	1.93 (Total 27)

Figure 1: Physical facilities*



***The responders lacked uniformity as most responders of Code A reported the dedicated facilities and most responders of Code B reported shared and dedicated facilities together.**

- Though all the medical colleges were offered a pre-structured questionnaire, 27 of them responded. Two thirds (59%) of government Medical Colleges replied while only one third (32%) of private medical colleges responded.

- It was observed that there is scarcity of Medicine units in proportion to students.
- Mid level teachers are much less than the standard.
- The unavailability of physical facilities may play an important barrier against achieving clinical perfection.
- Number of publication, national & international presentations is also much less frequent than expected specially in private sector.

Conclusion

- The educational mission of teaching hospitals may be compromised by the absence of perfect academic environment.
- We hope that lack of the resources and expertise should be fulfilled in an urgent manner.

Limitations

1. A remarkable number of Medical Colleges did not respond specially the private owned, which we think could have more negative results in this study.
2. We had time and resource constraints. A large scale study is necessary.

Thank
You