

Challenges encountered in the role of leadership in Medical Education

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OBJECTIVE: To explore the challenges of leadership in medical education.

DESIGN: Literature review.

METHODS: Combination of Google search of relevant articles and associated personal experience in the module of Educational leadership, of Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education.

RESULTS: First challenge is to implement changes to the departmental guidelines according to the national guidelines. Knowledge is expanding much faster than our ability to assimilate and apply it effectively.¹ The other challenges are their interaction with different levels of professionals with different opinions and getting the approval by the management especially in cases where funding is required. A good leader is not only a team leader, but also a team player, who values and seeks the opinions of others.²

With upgraded technology the challenges are to get management on board, obtain instruments and then introducing it to the clinicians. The obstacles can be that people may be used to older techniques and may not be agreeable to change. There are many challenges in introducing new technologies in clinics including opinions of different clinical personnel involved.³ Providing adequate training with new technology, putting a case for management, introduction in curriculum so new trainees are trained are some of the methods I have seen in my current department while introducing robotic surgery.

Covid being a recent challenge, solutions implemented were online learning and having courses on online platforms. I perceived some challenges with these methods like limited interactions between the students and teachers and having a named mentor helps them to interact openly. Monitoring progress and assessing competence of trainees individually is important with online learning.⁴

CONCLUSION: The leadership has now evolved as a team role rather than ownership of an individual person. The main aim is to provide up-to-date education and to improve the quality of patient care. As leaders in medical education, one should take everyone's opinion and be a role model in being receptive to new changes.

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