

DETERIORATING FACILITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION IN PROFESSORIAL UNITS AT PERADENIYA MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Despite wide interest for the revision and upgrade of the undergraduate medical education, there is a general impression that the facilities made available for the same have deteriorated. Therefore, we studied the facilities available for undergraduate medical education in professorial units at Peradeniya Medical School.

The number of academic staff and the number of hospital beds available in the clinical departments of the Faculty of Medicine, Peradeniya, was studied in relation to the number of students admitted annually to the school from 1981-2004 and annual funding was studied from 1994 to 2004.

There is a steady increase in the student: staff ratio and a stepwise reduction in the number of hospital beds allocated per student in all four clinical departments. The student: staff ratio increased from 12 to 48 (300 %), 15 to 48 (220 %), 7.5 to 21.3 (184 %) and 10 to 21.3 (110 %) respectively in the Departments of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery and Medicine while the number of hospital beds allocated per student declined from 2.8 to 1.62 (73 %), 7.13 to 2.73 (159 %), 5.93 to 1.93 (281 %) and 6.53 to 2.25 (189 %) respectively during the 23 years. The recurrent funds utilized per student has reduced from Rs. 11542 to 9352 (18.97 %), 8149 to 5477 (32.78 %), 13114 to 8972 (31.58 %) and 18109 to 12142 (32.95 %) from 1994-2004 (Prices adjusted according to the Colombo Consumers' Price index).

In conclusion there has been a significant deterioration in funding, academic staffing and hospital beds available for undergraduate medical education in all professorial units at Peradeniya Medical School over the last 23 years.