

Curriculum on clinical toxicology for students of health sciences

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Background: Current teaching and training on clinical toxicology are more theory oriented (Cognitive aspects). **Objective:** To analyze the methods and time allotted to teach and train medical, nursing and pharmacy undergraduates and postgraduates students on clinical toxicology, and to suggest areas of revision and modification. **Methods:** University curriculum on clinical toxicology was collected. Faculty members involved directly and indirectly to teach and train on clinical toxicology were interacted to elicit their mode of teaching and training. They were asked to share their views and suggestions independently and in a written manner. Students were interviewed to give their attitude towards poison cases. The information was analyzed.

Conclusion: Various aspects of toxicology were discussed, little in physiology and biochemistry, and more in pathology and medical jurisprudence. Clinical aspects were concentrated in medicine and pediatrics, and environmental aspects in community medicine. More efforts were made to infuse theoretical aspects (cognitive domain) and less attention was focused on psychomotor and affective domain. As a result, these students did not gain confidence to face challenges of toxicology cases. The reasons stated by them were 1). Socially sensitive matters 2). Medico legal issues 3). Limited facilities in private health care and primary care centers 4). Vigilant attention 5). Continuous monitoring 6). Interference with regular practices 7). Too much expectation from the caregivers 8). Not willing to accept the natural course and 9). Financial implications involved to provide support for the cases. As the current status of teaching and training on clinical toxicology is sub-optimal, there is an urgent need to revise health science education system on toxicology. It is also suggested/proposed to organize combined interactive sessions among medical, nursing and pharmacy students to create confidence and bring uniformity to serve the sick and needy.