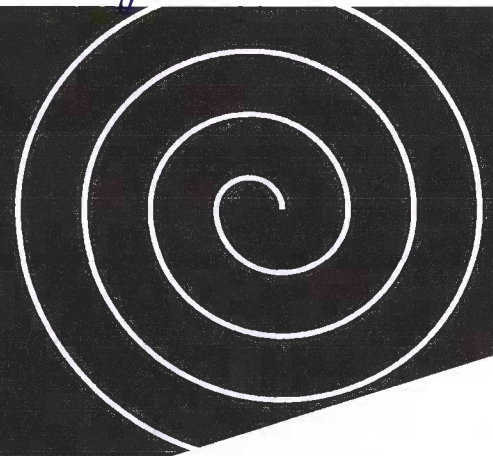


Publication
of
1st/3rd

IJGC

INDIAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC CARE

SEP-DEC 2023, VOL. 12 NO 3



HIGHLIGHTS

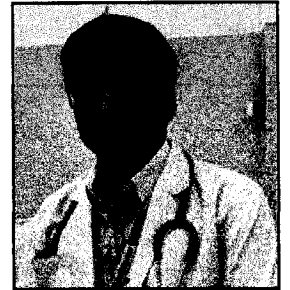
- Efficacy of Printed Exercise Material on Improving Retention of Exercises in Elderly Patients in Goa - A Randomized Control Trial
- Reaching the Unreached: Sri Sanku Seshrahmanvanti Mahila Sadhana 2023
- Drug Induced Disorders





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Relevance of Geriatric Medical Education in India

In India there is no dearth of courses offered for learning geriatric medicine right now. The geriatric care which is a holistic care involves medical, social, psychological and spiritual care.

The multimorbidity in older people is a challenge for the physicians and many have expressed their inability to handle the challenges. This also is causing ageist attitude among clinicians. The geriatric syndromes, polypharmacy, iatrogenic diseases, long term care, complications of the diseases, disabilities, care modalities and acute care has made the geriatric care more challenging, hence the need for special specialty i.e. *Geriatrics!*

The training for caregiver, and nurses in geriatric care, palliative care, dementia care are provided by various institutions like National institute of social defense, Government, Private Medical and Nursing colleges and NGO's across India. My discussion here is purely concerned to geriatric medical education in India.

In my own example, after completing my Masters in Medicine in year 2002, I was looking for additional course in geriatric care. In year 2006 I came across PGDGM Course conducted by IGNOU through advertisement in newspaper. I immediately enrolled and I am now proud alumnus of IGNOU. I started a geriatric clinic in my medical college in year 2007 and started sensitizing undergraduate & postgraduate students on common health issues in geriatric care. Now here in our college we are offering MD in Geriatrics.

The Madras Medical College in Chennai was first to start MD Geriatric medicine course in India in the year 1996 by Dr. V S Natarajan. Since then, over 27 years, MD in Geriatrics has been started in 18 medical colleges across

India with intake of 69 Postgraduate students every year as on 2024. Maharashtra tops with five medical Colleges while Karnataka has 4 medical colleges providing MD in Geriatrics. DNB in geriatrics is provided only in Baptist Hospital, Bangalore.

Then, The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) came up with Post Graduate Diploma in Geriatric Medicine (PGDGM) course in the year 2004, which provides self-learning and practical experience for the learners. It provides 300 seats over 10 centers across India every year and are planning to increase the centers shortly. This course is recognized by University Grant Commission.

Many academic associations like Geriatric Society of India, Indian Academy of Geriatrics, & Indian Society of Gerontology have started Fellowship courses for medical practitioners and medical students on Geriatric Care. Then came the era of Certificate courses in geriatric medicine which is provided by few medical colleges across India. The Geriatric Society of India along with Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi jointly has been organizing Certificate Course in Geriatric and Gerontology for medical practitioners for last three years, the course is on line with one day practical class followed by MCQ test. Practitioners in large numbers are participating in this program.

NIMHANS in Bangalore is providing course in geriatric psychiatry while Banaras Hindu University is providing Fellowship in geriatric rheumatology. The Government of India has started three Regional Training Centers exclusively on Geriatric care and few more are in pipeline. Eight medical colleges provide MD courses in palliative care with intake of 35 seats per year, while 10 hospitals are providing 18 seats in DNB palliative care. The



*E*ditorial

National Institute of Social Defense has started online course in Geriatric care and Dementia Care called TAPAS, which is open for public as well and is free of cost.

Various colleges and Academic associations are providing online short courses in geriatric care for Undergraduate students and Interns. The good move is that the NMC has made it mandatory for interns to undergo sensitization program in geriatrics from 2017 batch across all medical colleges in India. But the tragedy is that only 20 medical colleges are able to sensitize geriatric medicine for interns. Another way the NMC is promoting geriatrics is by allowing to start department of Geriatrics with existing senior physician and a faculty with degree in family medicine. This has promoted to start many departments so

far and will continue in future as well. The corporate hospitals are now encashing on geriatric clinic as well.

There are various ways by which the knowledge of geriatrics is imparted in medical education across India, more so in last five years. I feel, lot needs to be done. The youngsters should develop passion towards geriatrics specialty and they will definitely have a higher acceptance both in society and academics. The NMC should remove the barrier of not permitting to DM for students perusing MD Geriatrics.

The very fact that there is steep rise in centers providing geriatric education, suggest that there is a demand and more physicians are willing to learn geriatric care which suggest that geriatrics is much more relevant now.