

SUGGESTIONS FROM

TWO DAYS WORKSHOP ON REFORMS FOR AYURVEDA MEDICAL EDUCATION IN GOVERNMENT AYURVEDA COLLEGES IN KERALA

Academic committee, AKGACS

I. INTRODUCTION

It is a truth, of course, not pleasant, that ayurvedic medical education in India is fronting many challenges which need to be spoken principally in a programmed manner. The discussions for an improved curriculum and syllabus are now twisted to be a never ending process and always the practicality of both is deeply debated among its stake holders. There is a wide spread notion among the kerala faculty of Ayurveda about the lack of inclusion of regional legacy of the ayurveda tradition in Kerala in the syllabus and curriculum that is definitely necessary for successful excelling of practitioners of Ayurveda in Kerala. It is extensively accepted that, the potential of Ayurveda in managing and preserving public health is never been explored to the full. Newly emerged practitioners from the academia reported to have minimal opportunity apart from general practice which, basically a perplexing field in Kerala. Therefore it is necessary to strengthen the education system with a much broader view of grabbing more opportunities from public health management by developing the unexplored areas of Ayurveda through effective implementation of focused curriculum and syllabus.

The public sector colleges in kerala for imparting undergraduate as well as post graduate Ayurveda medical education, is only three in number with a cumulative intake capacity less than a couple hundreds. These are the primary destinations for bright students who performed very well in the entrance examinations and the colleges are destined for delivering quality and effective ayurveda medical education for the above students with reduced expenses. But recent evaluations are showing signs of deterioration in the way these colleges are delivering its potentials and the performance output from the students are evidence to this situation. This may be because the education system running in these major colleges has never been under scrutiny for years and never questioned for its effectiveness in the transformed scenario. Teaching materials, methods etc. must also be thoroughly evaluated for its efficacy. Discussions for setting up of vision and mission for future thrust are possible only after satisfactory casing of the existing voids in the education system.

Though effective discussions are necessary in the above painstaking actualities, there is never been attempts to reform the way we approach our system of education since its inception 125 years back. Therefore, the *Two days' Workshop on Reforms for Ayurveda Medical Education in Government Ayurveda Colleges in Kerala* was conducted with ***a vision to convert the ayurvedic medical education system in government Ayurveda colleges in Kerala to a model for science and practice of Ayurveda.***

MAJOR SUGGESTIONS

General

1. Proper and efficient academic committee may be formed with 5 – 7 members under the state committee of AKGACS and in the respective units, with the following objectives
 - i. Play an instrumental role in framing and implementation of policies for AKGACS for the smooth functioning of academia in government Ayurveda colleges in Kerala
 - ii. Develop vision and mission for education, research and skill development for students and teachers of government Ayurveda colleges in Kerala
 - iii. Implement and monitor suggestions by AKGACS regarding education, research and skill development in academia in government Ayurveda colleges in Kerala
 - iv. Analyze and report issues relating to academia and give suggestions to AKGACS if necessary
2. Female faculty may be given priority in the Academic committee as number of female teaching faculty is clearly outnumbers male faculties in government Ayurveda colleges in Kerala
3. The above factor may be considered for other committees too, as the woman power available in government Ayurveda colleges in Kerala is seldom utilized

Undergraduate student affairs

4. A **committee for student affairs** may be constituted and approved by the college council to ensure effective bridging and execution of curricular and co-curricular activities in each colleges
5. The committee may contain the following members
 - i. Vice principal (in charge of academy)
 - ii. Minimum of four head of the departments (one from each year)
 - iii. Deputy warden (men and women hostels)
 - iv. Unit secretary AKGACS
 - v. Staff advisor
 - vi. Secretary PTA
 - vii. Class teachers
 - viii. NSS program officers
 - ix. College union chairman/secretary
 - x. PGSA president/secretary (*invitee only*)
 - xi. HSA president/secretary (*invitee only*)
6. The objectives for the committee for student affairs may be
 - i. Prepare, release, maintain and implement academic calendar every year (staff advisor may take the initiative)
 - ii. Effective attendance monitoring of students and dissolution of attendance related matters

- iii. Planning, conduction, evaluation and publishing of results of internal examinations and model examination
 - iv. Dissolution of disputes relating to internal and model examinations
 - v. Proper planning and execution of co-curricular activities by synchronizing with curricular activities
7. The following matters may be considered by the committee
- a. Monthly attendance statements may be published which includes credit hours of activities related to students union and credit hours of other co-curricular activities
 - b. Disputes, in this regard, if any, may be considered and resolved periodically and not at the end of the academic year
 - c. Relaxation may be given to a shortage of attendance reaching up to **10 percent of the total attendance only, and on producing justifiable reasons for that shortage.** (Absence on medical grounds may be exempted)
 - d. No relaxation what so ever may be given in attaining 3.5 point in internal and model examinations and it is mandatory to write all the stipulated tests
 - e. Permission to write retest for internal and model examinations may be considered only in exceptional circumstances and after informing parents /guardian of the concerned student requesting the retest
 - f. Severe shortage in attendance for any student may be intimated to the parents/guardian of that student via PTA by using appropriate methods
 - g. Continuous absence in class by a student may be intimated to the concerned deputy warden/parent/guardian/PTA as early as possible and necessary action may be initiated immediately. Care may be taken to prevent hostels turning to be a hub for idle minds
8. **Departmental staff meeting** may be conducted periodically to prepare modules, topic distribution and to ensure effective completion of specific topics prior to each stipulated internal/model examinations
9. **Interdepartmental teacher's forum** may be conducted prior to the beginning of each batch for a specific year. All teachers teaching in various departments for a batch in an academic year may participate in the forum. This will ensure effective communication between departments and the syllabus may be prearranged and covered successfully
10. Clinical training for students may be conducted strictly and meritoriously and "bedside clinics" may be encouraged by all means.

House surgeons affairs

- 11. Duties, responsibilities and ethical obligations of a house surgeons may be taught soon after they enrolled as a house surgeon
- 12. Regular training programs for house surgeons may be considered for the development of clinical and related skills for house surgeons
- 13. Priority in clinics must be given for house surgeons, as many of them have their last chance to attend the clinics in their mother institution and to develop their skills

Post graduate student affairs

14. Regular classes for Post graduates in respective departments may be arranged according to the syllabus. Theory classes are necessary for post graduates in all departments
15. Departmental seminars and discussions for post graduates may be made mandatory
16. Common seminar comprising all the post graduate departments may be conducted weekly and the abstracts and full paper of the same may be published in digital platform. An abstract book comprising all the papers presented in the common seminar in print may be published at the end of presentations by all departments
17. A committee for the smooth conduction of common seminar may be constituted in each college

Doctoral programs

18. Teachers undergoing PhD by research may be assembled to share their knowledge in their research topics to fellow teachers and postgraduates

Teacher's affairs

19. Academic matters may be a regular agenda in general bodies of AKGACS
 20. Academic committee may take responsibility for planning and executing skill development programs for teachers in teaching, clinics and research, which is regular and address all category of teachers
 21. Teachers need to maintain the highest conduct in teaching profession. They need to be a role model for students and need to observe ethics in teaching and in clinical practice
-

*Please continue for **work plan***

WORK PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. The suggestions set forth by the Academic Committee after the reforms meeting are the initial step for standardizing and improving the Ayurveda education in Kerala, therefore, all units are requested to implement the suggestions of the committee approved by AKGACAS effectively in a time bound manner
2. The primary stakeholders of these suggestions are students; therefore implementation in consensus with students are welcoming
3. The immediate objective of implementation of the report is to regularize proper in-house examinations, dissolution of attendance related issues, synchronizing curricular and co-curricular activities positively by preparing an academic calendar for the campus and meritorious delivery of knowledge to the students by using existing facilities of the colleges
4. Individual units of AKGACAS in all the three government ayurveda colleges are responsible for the implementation of the report and proper monitoring has to be done by the Academic committee formed at the respective units
5. The time frame for implementation is as follows
 - i. Release of the report approved by AKGACAS – 04/03/2017
 - ii. Reporting and discussion of the report and work plan at the respective units (executive and general body) – on or before 07/03/2017
 - iii. Discussion with students union, PGSA and HSA – on or before 10/03/2017
 - iv. Formation of specific committees as mentioned in the reforms report – on or before 19/03/2017
 - v. Getting approval of the report and newly formed committees by the college council – on or before 25/03/2017
 - vi. Initial meeting and setting of workable objectives and work plan by the committees – on 26/03/2017
 - vii. ***Suggestions of the report and the committees shall be active from 01/04/2017 onwards***

Periodic reporting of the implementation to the state center of the AKGACAS is expected

Academic committee,

With the approval of AKGACAS