

LETTER TO EDITOR

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION

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The glaring ignorance around the impact of climate change and the pressing need for a paradigm shift in medical and dental curriculum in the current era has huge impact on our health system. Numerous studies have shown how closely climate change and human health are intertwined.^{1,2} A few repercussions that directly affect people and communities everywhere are rising global temperatures, extreme weather, and the spread of infectious diseases.³

Pakistan is particularly susceptible to the consequences of climate change because of its complex topography, growing population, and inadequate infrastructure.⁴ Over the past few decades, the country has experienced an increase in severe weather events, including heavy rain, heat waves, floods, and droughts, which are having an impact on human health and wellbeing.

There are a number of immediate steps that can be taken in countries with limited resources like Pakistan, such as establishing partnerships between medical institutions and public training institutes to co-create training materials and curriculum on climate resilience and environmentally friendly healthcare practices.⁵ This collaboration would ensure knowledge sharing while maximizing the tools and information now accessible.

Investment in infrastructure and technology that encourages sustainability in healthcare facilities should be prioritized in order to reduce the environmental effect of healthcare operations.^{6,7} These include recycling programs, alternative energy sources, and water-saving techniques. It will be crucial to include stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as international organizations in order to acquire resources and implement these changes. The development and modification of curriculum can be facilitated by the establishment of multidisciplinary committees and task groups with the participation of experts from various professions. These committees ought to place a high priority on the incorporation of climate-related topics and support faculty development programs in order to enhance educators' knowledge and pedagogical abilities.

Additionally, collaborations with non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and community-based projects like awareness-raising campaigns, research studies on the health effects of climate change, and the implementation of sustainable healthcare practices in under-served areas can enhance the capacities.

We can encourage positive change in our healthcare system by bridging the knowledge gap and providing healthcare professionals the required skills. To cover this gap, immediate measures must be made that are tailored to countries with limited resources like Pakistan, and public and private sectors must work together to promote widespread adoption. Let us capitalize of this chance to build a resilient future that prioritizes the wellbeing of individuals and the environment first.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Authors declare no conflict of interest.
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