

Community Based Education

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Community Based Education (CBE) is a unique educational strategy in Health Professions Education where good part of the students' training happens within and from the surrounding community in what's called Community Based Learning Activities outside the walls of the school starting very early and all through the school program. Students are learning through serving the community. According to the social accountability principles which is an integrated part of community based education, the school is committed to the welfare of the community and directs its education, research, and services towards promoting health of the community at all local, national, regional, and global levels. Community Based Education is a way of implementing Community Oriented Education which takes into consideration the community health needs and priority health problems.

CBE is classified into 3 main components: Training, Service and Research. The rationale for adopting such strategy is to break the barriers between the students and the community that they will serve upon graduation, acquire optimum performance physician attitudes, correlate theoretical knowledge to real life situations and resources, and a powerful means of improving community based health facilities and community participation in health promotion. The community based learning activities range from 20 to 50% of the educational time. This includes training in Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Health Care facilities in addition to direct contact with the community members, their families (through students' family visits), Ministry of Health facilities, school health and occupational health settings. Community Based Education strategy is a good example of relevance in education, self-directed and group learning, inter-professional education, and full trans-disciplinary integration (the highest levels) where the students themselves integrate their prior and acquired knowledge in a real-life context. Students' assessment in CBE is also unique and depends on large extent on self-assessment (through students' portfolios), peer assessment, field tutors' assessment, and above all community representative's feed-back.