



### Undergraduate Research in New Curriculum

Research is an integral part of any academic development. It not only helps the researcher to grow but also helps the community at large by contributing to the existing knowledge of any subject. In the medical field, it helps to better understand the diseases, their pathogenesis, prognosis, and more effective management of those diseases. Research cannot be done overnight and the researcher has to work 24/7 to achieve a good result. However, medical undergraduates cannot devote that much time to research as their primary aim is to become good doctors by excelling in academics. But knowledge increases by involving themselves in research to find out the solution to their problems. Hence, they can enhance their knowledge by doing research by devoting time from their academic schedule. They can take up small projects and even explore in detail the good cases which they encounter during their clinical postings and add to the existing literature.

The new curriculum, “Competency-Based Medical Education” introduced by National Medical Commission has given importance to research along with academics and provided the undergraduates an opportunity to get an experience of research. During the period of ‘electives’ introduced in the curriculum, the student can work in the research setup to gain knowledge of the basics of research. He/she can be a part of research work individually or in a team. The students can start their own projects or they can be a part of faculty research. They can do some small researches or community-based projects which help them not only to sharpen their research skills but also stimulate their lateral thinking and enquiring capacity. Thus, it helps the undergraduates to learn things by themselves by enquiring and experimenting. Even the students can join the ongoing research in their institutions and acquire research knowledge. One of the purposes of block one electives is to provide the student with research experience. It helps them to learn good research practices which they can apply in their career. Simultaneously the students can learn the art of publishing the results of their projects. They can learn about abstract writing, poster making, and paper presentation followed by publishing their work in good scientific journal, which helps them to develop their career.

Learning the basics of research, not only increases their research skills but also gives them the confidence to do bigger research in the future or helps them choose research as their career.....

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