

CHAPTER I

1. Introduction

What should we expect from medical students? What kind of characteristics and qualities should they be equipped with? These questions become critically important and getting increasing attention as philosophy of health and health care have been changed since the concept of health has been extended from individual to society and from biological norm to all kinds of other norms including social, behavioral, economic and cultural.

Accordingly, health care approach also becomes more comprehensive and encompasses curative, preventive, promotive and rehabilitative health services. In order to meet this change, it is now essential to foster community orientation in medical students who are going to take part in leading role of health care delivery system. In addition, they are still the best and brightest youth, major asset and untapped resource of the country. Therefore, it is important to utilize this valuable human resource properly and effectively in health care services.

However, there seem to be a great expectation from the medical students. Some times the expectations look ideal and too perfect. It looks too extreme that medical students should be regarded as the medical adventurers who sacrifice their whole life for other people by doing the best things.

In fact, we are not expecting the gold standard from them. Instead, we just expect something reasonable and fair to all parties to take care the health of people in 21st century. Our modest expectation from the students is *community-orientation*.

Although the concept of community orientation needs to be specified, fostering this concept in medical education and medical students has been advocated worldwide for more than two decades. The shortage of this concept in medical students was a well-accepted fact. The AlmaAta declaration on primary care in 1978, the founding of Network of Community Oriented Education Institutions for Health services in 1979, the Institute of Medicine Conference on Community Oriented Primary Care in 1982, World Summit on Medical Education 1993 and Edinburgh Declaration, acknowledged the problem and recommended that medical education must be reformed to produce the community oriented medical students.

In fact, there is no single responsible condition, which gives rise to the development of this problem situation. Various conditions are contributing for this problem situation. These conditions are identified in this essay. The comprehensive solution is desirable to improve the problem situation. However, according to the available resources, it is logical to find out the most feasible solution. It is attempted to identify in this portfolio thesis.