

Faculties, Universities of Health Sciences (FUCHS) in Tanzania

Prof. John Shao

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The idea of establishing a forum for exchange of ideas sharing of health professional training in Tanzania mainland goes back to 1997.

Prior to this period there was an act of parliament passed 1995 which allowed for organizations, individuals to establish own managed University.

This act paved way for establishment of:

- ▶ Hubert Kairuki Memorial University
- ▶ Tumaini University
- ▶ Saint Augustine University
- ▶ International Medical and Technical University.

Each of the above mentioned Universities established Medical Training Faculties which trained health professionals who on graduation will work mostly in Tanzanian health providing facilities both government and private owned.

- ▶ Prior to this scenario it was only University of Dar es Salaam through Muhimbili college of Health Sciences which offered Medical graduate programme in Tanzania for
 - ❖ Medical graduate Doctors
 - ❖ Medical graduate Nurses
 - ❖ Medical graduate Pharmacists
 - ❖ Medical graduate specialists in different specialties
 - ❖ Diploma and advanced diploma in Health Sciences for various cadres.

During that time the average yearly graduates for Medical doctors was not more than 50. It was obvious that if efforts are not put in establishing other Universities for training health cadres and other programmes, Tanzania will continue to lag behind in terms of reaching acceptable doctors population in line with World Health Organization expectations.

OBJECTIVES OF FUCHS

- 1. To have a forum of Universities, Faculties starting teaching programmes in Health sciences meet to share experiences and ideas on programmes.**
- 2. To have a forum which will discuss and put mechanisms on accelerating the pace of human resource development in academic and research fields with special emphasis on areas related to the health of Tanzania population.**
- 3. To have a forum which will harmonize training programmes in relation to number of years for undergraduate, postgraduate studies duration, and type of medical internship requirements.**
- 4. To deliberate on possible sources of funds to support private Universities providing medically based programmes**

JUSTIFICATION

In 1997 Tanzania had approximately 1900 doctors with a doctor population ratio of 1:23,000 which was far below the ratio obtained in most Sub-Saharan countries of 1:10,800 and the standard recommended by WHO of 1:10,000. The ratio is further exacerbated when other factors such as the rate of population growth, inequalities in health care delivery in urban/ rural areas.

The new Universities, Faculties starting Medical Colleges would therefore go a long way towards supplementing government's efforts in meeting the human resource needs of the country.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

1. To train graduates who are able to show understanding of the ethical basis of medical practice and be able to identify social ethical. Cultural psychological and economic factors which influence the health of the individual, family and community.
2. To produce medical graduates equipped with the highest possible standard of practical and intellectual skills well suited to the needs of present and future Tanzania society.

3. To produce medical graduates who are motivated to adapt to rapid changes in the medical practice brought about by the new technology and to cope with ever expanding research and vast literature.
4. To produce a graduate who should be sensitive and responsive to community health needs by being able to plan organize, coordinate and evaluate the health needs of individuals, families and the community as well as being capable of implementing primary health care strategies for the community.

PROPOSED NAME OF FORUM

The name of the forum was decided to be Faculties, Universities, Colleges of Health Sciences (FUCHS)

Initial Members.

1. Muhimbili College of Health Sciences
2. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center
3. Bugando Medical Center
4. Hubert Kairuki Hospital
5. International Medical Training University

LOCATION

Muhimbili college of Health Sciences
Principals office.

Administrative support

- ▶ It was agreed that the ministry of Health Training Section will provide logistic and financial support as secretariat for the forum.
- ▶ The chairperson of the forum was to start with principal of MUHAS and rotate to other institution on a 3 years cycle.

CURRENT OBSERVATIONS

1. Initially there was a high interest in enabling the forum meet regularly about 3 meetings were held thereafter no meeting were held.
2. Universities continue to train health professionals based on their own curriculum approved by Tanzania commission of Universities (TCU)
3. There is no harmonization of training curriculum emphasis as a result difference in quality and professional abilities of graduate has emerged.
4. Practical skills among graduates vary from one institution to another.
5. Training duration for various programmes have emerged such as 4 1/2 years training for doctors, 3 or 4 years specialist training etc.
6. Uncontrolled movements of teaching staff from one institution to another without control etc

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD.

1. Focus on re- establishment of FUCHS to be taken seriously by the current training institutions.
2. Focus on renewed FUCHS should be partnership in delivering Medical Training programmes among institutions.
3. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has established the third Health Sector Strategic Plan 2009-2015 (HSSPIII) whose focus is on partnership for delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). FUCHS can advice and deliver a lot in assisting Ministry of Social welfare on steps to take in achieving the goals.
4. Development partners provide the health sector with needed financial, technical and moral support. The well established sector wide approach in Tanzania offers all partners an opportunity to contribute to better health training needs in Tanzania. All efforts in the health sector should be focused on mobilizing them to collaborate for the better health training needs in the country

5. Medical Education partnership initiative (MEPI) should be lured into supporting interested medical training institution in Tanzania.
6. If this consideration is favorable than FUCHS should be rejuvenised and placed at KCM College. KCM College can be considered to be the new location.
7. Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) can be considered for secretarial supports.

References

1. Health sector strategic plan III July 2009 – June 2015 of ministry of Health and social services.
2. Public Private Partnership strategic Plan 2010 – 2015 Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.
3. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College Proposal for establishing Medical College.
4. Tumani University establishment 1997.



THANK YOU