

## The Time to Change is here

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Dear Madam,

I wish to shed light over a critical issue being faced by the students enrolled in this medical institution. Due to the delay observed in conducting our professional examinations and announcing their result, unfortunately, the course of undergraduate studies for both MBBS and BDS tends to last beyond the prescribed time period.

Time is a precious entity. For medical students who strive to make the best possible use of their time, the prospect of graduating and finally getting something in return for all the hard work they have put in is quite an overwhelming idea<sup>1</sup>. Failure to do so simply because of the apathy of the management is certainly disheartening and demoralizing. It has a massive impact on the efficiency of students in the long run as it upsets their goals, thought process and motivation levels.

As significant is this matter for the students, what the administrators fail to realize is that negligence at their end is making these students lag far behind the students of many other medical colleges. To make matters worse, failure to pass an examination on the first attempt leads to an unrecoverable wastage of time, owing to the holdup in conducting the supplementary examinations. Interestingly, this dilemma is not faced by the students of other medical colleges of Pakistan. Not only the students of DOW Medical College, King Edward Medical University, etcetera, are given an opportunity to sit for their exams on time, but are also provided with an adequately pre-set time period for the

preparation. Thus, they are promoted to the next academic year on time, while we find ourselves caught up in a limbo. Absence of uniformity increases stress levels above and beyond the stress already faced by medical students due to several other traumatizing factors prevailing in Karachi<sup>2</sup>.

Furthermore, such unpredictable schedules prevent students from availing different opportunities. They are unable to make commitments, such as applying for electives to other medical institutions, due to the uncertainty of their own examinations. Electives enhance doctor-patient interactions and provide the students with firsthand skills of the clinical world<sup>3</sup>. Speaking from experience, we waste about four months of every academic year in anticipation of examinations. This certainly leads to disappointments.

It is my sincere plea to the administrators to look into this issue. It is high time for them to devise a system that is competent enough to cater to the needs of medical students.

### References

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