



The Horse and the Stream

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'No horse gets anywhere until he is harnessed. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined'

-Harry Emerson Fosdick

The students of today are more techosavy than were during previous times. This means that they have an access to the world at their fingertips! Does this imply that they are more intellectuals? Or are we training them to work less and tread towards the easier path. This definitely seems to be the set trend. Gone are the days of perseverance, today's Gen next looks for instant gratification.

These observations bring me to a question that has been plaguing me for long. Are we teaching the students not to learn, but nevertheless pass? Does this indicate callousness on the part of the student or the teacher? Are we heading towards becoming the accidental teachers? Efforts are sincerely required to be made to motivate students and invoke interest. How do we make the subject more interesting and simple for the students, this thought should be at the forefront of our minds. With increasing sizes of University buildings and expanding curricula offering increasing number of courses to the students are we neglecting the keystones –the undergraduates. These are going to be the Masters of tomorrow. If we do not inculcate interest and develop a love for their subject how are we going to harness their focus and dedication towards competency which is the ultimate goal of any profession.

Talking of competency my thoughts go back to the clinical practice of Periodontology. Progression of a profession depends on knowledge of the clinician or the dental graduate. Unless he or she is aware of the clinical conditions which require a specialist to be consulted, which can be provided during their undergraduate program, the need for consultation will not be realized. Therefore, for progression as a professional there is a need at large to improve basic understanding about the subject among undergraduates and motivate them to choose periodontology as a postgraduate program. You can take the horse to the stream and allow it to decide whether to drink or not.

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