

## TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A CURRICULUM

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Outlining or composing the terms of reference (TORs) while developing any project, during the evaluation of an event, or enquiring into a matter is giving a set of transcribed directions or writing some specific instructions as a guideline to accomplish the task. The intention is to remain focused on a specific objective during the action. The objective is to investigate the cause and effect of the relationship of an event or define sequential phases of developing a concept-based project. This is especially required when teamwork is contemplated to perform a specific task with a specific purpose. This helps in assigning the tasks to individual members of the team directed to the pinnacle of the pyramid of goals for achieving specific common objectives.<sup>1,2</sup>

The terms of reference of a curriculum are to regulate the whole campus activity to the vision that forms the very basis of an institute. However, an institute most often does not perform in isolation and the vision of an institute is generally a part of the vision of many global, regional, and local stakeholders. Occasionally, a congruence or alignment is required in achieving this holistic approach to the campus activity. This earnestly means implicitly taking care of global concerns while writing TORs of the curriculum such as Helsinki Declaration, WHO millennium health care goals and five-star doctor, and the transparency and integrity of committee of publication of ethics (COPE). The explicit inclusion of PMC and NUMS health care vision parameters is mandatory in TORs for a locally appropriate solution to indigenous health care problems of the society.

Curriculum development as a holistic activity on campus is defined as a purposeful, progressive, and systematic process to create positive improvements in competency-based learning in the educational system. The curriculum is not stagnant but a living document and the first step of developing a curriculum is to delineate the terms of reference in line with the vision and mission, based on the community needs.<sup>3</sup> In CIMS Dental College, the TORs of the curriculum for all activities in the campus whether syllabus writing, teaching and learning activities, assessment, or evaluation will eventually lead to our vision of Healthy Smile of Waseb (A geographic entity in the south of Punjab and

middle of Pakistan). We will provide dental health care with an utmost endeavor to accomplish the aspects of personal respect to the individual, safety, and justice in our undertakings.<sup>4,5</sup>

Our graduates will ultimately be groomed to provide dental health care according to the above standards. They will own their role as a community leader, be a manager, communicator, advocate, and care provider. Our curriculum design, content coverage, methods of teaching, and evaluation of students' performance will be aligned with the National University of Medical Sciences' vision of quality of life through education, research, innovation, and health care.

The Healthy Smile of Waseb is a demeanor of the quality of dental health care and life for all<sup>8</sup> which will be achieved through the mission of developing and maintaining high-class infrastructure, capacity building of all, and making it financially self-sustained. The part of capacity building will include an effort to make it possible for the student to own their learning, directed to the dental health care needs of our community. This whole effort will be integrated to correlate and consolidate all in-campus activities and outreach community services with pre-determined outcomes systematically. This general outline will help the individual department in the college to align and correlate their planned activities to more objectively defined specific social, environmental, biological, and other contextual contents in their part of the college curriculum.<sup>6-8</sup>

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