Role of Shahid motahhari educational festival in promoting quality of medical education: a qualitative study

Solaiman Ahmadi[1], Mohammad Ali Hosseini[2], Kamyar Yaghmaeian[3], *Leila Ahangarzadeh[4]

1- Associate Professor, Faculty of Medical Education, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
2- Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Management Department, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
3- Professor, Faculty of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
4- MS, Faculty of Medical Education, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran **(Corresponding author)**
Email: l_ahangarzadeh@yahoo.com

Abstract

Introduction: Continuous appraisals and required interventions based on results of these appraisals have had undeniable effect in improving education process.

Materials and Methods: The present study was done with qualitative method and by using content analysis technique in 2014. Settings and Design: Gathering data was done by using semi–structured interview. Statistical analysis used: Analyzing data was done in parallel with doing interviews. At first, content of any one of interviews was studied several times that general understanding was obtained from text and coded. Then, a content was given to main concepts in these sentences that with comparison of contents with each other.

Results: 63% of participants were member of scientific board of universities and 100% had PhD studies. Contents getting from coding were placed in 3 main categories and 16 subcategories. Main categories included facilitators, challenges and process of running festival.

Conclusion: The finding demonstrated that promoting quality of medical education can be obtained in level of medical sciences universities by dissolving structural problems of running Shahid Motahhari educational festival and dissolving challenges like not suitably informing, clarifying unclear fate of superior processes and making educational activities outstanding and effectively releasing knowledge - researching processes and activities and health system can be helped in effective education of human force.

Keywords: Medical education, Shahid Motahhari educational festival, promoting quality of medical education.

Introduction

Different countries have field differences in method of education, social and economical conditions, culture, and variety of health and disease and health care's systems that it needs a special solution [1]. Efforts by the World Health Organization have been done in order to reform and improve medical education with aim of making effective changes in educational systems through cooperation with organizations and institutes in regional and global levels such as forming society - based institutes network in medical sciences and conferences of medical education [2].On the one hand, reforming and developing medical education need all-aspects attention to choice, education, appraisal and development [3]. Appraising quality of higher education in many of countries has grade of high priority [4] and professional look at discussion of education has had necessity in view of increased growth of technical knowledge of education in area of medical education, too [5,6] Prompting quality to make suitable structures with aim of investigating problems and promoting consequences in any organization should be done

in a systematic bed [7-9].Continuous appraisals and required interventions based on results of these appraisals have had an undeniable effect in improving process of education and it is in view of such effects that the clear sighted have emphasis on using tried methods for appraisal [4,10,11] From interventions that have been executed in order to promote quality of medical education in Iranian health system, is Shahid Motahhari educational festival. Shahid Motahhari educational festival, since 2007 is designed and held in order to identify and introduce desired educational processes of medical education in both academic and national levels by medical sciences universities of all country and educational assistance of Ministry of Health, Remedy and Medical Education [12]. To date, 8 periods of this festival has been held in the country. After passing different periods of the festival, only research that has investigated Shahid Motahhari educational festival, is study of Hosseini, et al that has investigated the festival in areas of background, sources, process and results of 6 primary periods of the festival. Based on results of this research, area of process

of the festival allocated highest score to itself and area of results least score to itself [12]. Investigations show that to date, no study has been done in field of effect of holding the festival on promoting medical education, so doing research seems necessary in this field. The present research was done with aim of stating conception of the clear sighted of medical education of the country in regard to effect of Shahid Motahhari educational festival on promoting quality of medical education in 2014.

Methods

This study was done in qualitative research method and by using content analysis method. The research community was members of scientific board of medical sciences university's of the country and experts and members of scientific and excuive committee of Shahid Motahhari festival. At first, studied samples (primary samples) were also chosen through sampling based on goal through referring to several people of key experts who were from professors of medical sciences universities of the country and members of scientific committee of Shahid Motahhari festival. In next stage through introducing key experts, samples were developed as snowball. Criteria of entering to study of membership of scientific board of one of medical sciences universities of the country that has had a role in executive committee and or scientific committee of Shahid Motahhari festival or has participated as participant and or lecturer in the given festival, were taken. Criteria of exiting from the study were determined as participant's avoidance to do interview and or low quality of recorded interview, too. Interviews were continued as individual and till saturating data and not achieving to new data. Determining place and time of doing interview was according to study participants' opinion. Interviews were done in a quiet environment, so that people's privacy was complied with and length of any interview was variable from 20 min to 30 min, depending on participants' conditions. Gathering information was done by using semi-structured interview. Firstly, questions of interview were designed and written in frame of study guide, precisely and goals and procedure were specified. Sessions of doing interview were done by determining previous time from any one of participants and as presence in one session. While doing interview, providing effective information on how of participants' responding was avoided. Participants' words were recorded and run on sound file by getting satisfaction of any one of them and in order to approve, they were provided to interviewee. To increase its assurance, external supervision was used in order to obtain joint understanding of text of interviews. To analyze data, content analysis method was used. Analyzing data was begun since the same first interview and in parallel with doing interviews

(coincidental analysis). Firstly, first-level coding was done, to this case that sentences that response of posed questions was in interview, were specified. Then, a content was given to main concepts in these sentences that by comparing contents with each other, a list of main contents and sub contents was obtained. In second-level coding, main contents and sub contents were reread and then, main contents with similar meaning were classified with each other and categories were formed. Coding and determining categories were done by research team and afterwards, determined contents were compared with each other and finally, by analyzing extracted categories, themes of the research were regulated and codified. Codes in this stage were analyzed by using MAXQDA software. To assure to results, reading interviews was done several times and opinions of guide and advisor professors were used orderly. Also, to increase its assurance, external supervision was used. Thereby, that a part of data was given to a researcher that did not relate to study and was tantamount to external observer that it is specified whether he / she has also a similar understanding of data or not and for purpose of approvability of data getting from doing the research, researcher's all reports, manuscripts and notes were provided to guide professor and advisor professors that their interpretation were compared with codes and findings extracted by researcher. As well, along doing the research, it was tried that by gathering information from participant professors in Shahid Motahhari festival, gotten information about subject of the research states all existing information in this field.

In this study, moral considerations were also taken such as doing coordination and getting permission from the responsible of Shahid Motahhari festival to talk with participants while holding the festival and complying with honesty and trust in using sources and complying with rights of authors and interview parties. Also, getting permission from participants of the study to record content of interviews and giving assurance to participants of the study about confidentiality of their talks and removing sound file after running on paper.

Results

participants of this study were 30 people that of this number, 6 interviews did not provide much information and or quality of recording interview was low and they were removed from analysis and finally, 24 interviews were investigated. 63% of participants were member of scientific board of universities and 100 % had studies of specialized PhD of basic sciences of medicine, specialized clinical PhD and clinical fellowship. Number of primary codes getting from process of analyzing text of interviews was separated about 500 codes and then, primary codes were placed in

16 subcategories and 3 main categories. Main categories included facilitators, challenges and process of running the festival. Subjects extracted from interviews are provided in frame of summary of the most important points in the following.

A: facilitator factors effective on promoting quality of medical education networking and teamwork in education.

One of factors effective on networking and teamwork in education can be known as opportunity of members of scientific board's familiarity with events of all the country.

One of participants remarks that: «participation in the festival gives least opportunity to members of scientific board that they familiarize with education environment and events that occur all over universities of the country». In regard to making opportunity to exchange opinion, he remarks «the festival is a good place to exchange opinion and transfer experiences between members of scientific board and the executive responsible of university and any university can get positive points from other university».

Developing knowledge-researching of education in area of medical education the festival is effective on knowledge- researching. one of participant's states: «role of the festival in developing knowledge-researching is certainly effective and surely developable». one another of factors of developing knowledge-researching in education is known as choosing pattern professor based on criteria of knowledge-researching. «When pattern professor wants to be chosen, it is based on criteria of knowledge – searching and if this becomes certain, too it certainly increases validity of Shahid Motahhari festival». In regard to disability of the festival to develop knowledge-researching, he says « holding the festival cannot lonely be effective in developing educational knowledge - researching, since different items are effective in promoting members of scientific board». The most main goal of the festival is to develop knowledge -researching. other participant states: «basically, the festival should institutionalize educational knowledge - researching, i. e. Research in education and be the most main our goal that after it, we can achieve educational reference, new innovations and effectiveness's and effectiveness in medical education».

Spreading process orientation in education

It is to document processes and one of effects of the festival is to define process. In this regard, we take some participants' opinion in this case. «The most important positive effects of Shahid Motahhari festival may be education of this subject that what is process and works can be documented». A participant points out growing process of quality of processes « this year, growing process than before is more and every year than previous year, we witness positive points, only we should know, it's being run-able is continuous or not and it is better, this thing becomes

clear». Promoting process and rate of running processes is discussed in the festival « however in the festival, processes are provided, processes are promoted, but whether how it is run, this is discussed».

Introducing new approaches of education

One of effective factors of introducing new approaches of education is as one of facilitator factors. « People who open booklet of the festival, become familiar with a series of ideas. If we increase quality of the festival every year, those who are not on the scene do not give a bad judgment about the festival». Mission of the festival is sharing educational innovation. «Perspective and goals that have been observed in Shahid Motahhari festival are that the festival is place of emerging and sharing educational innovation». Making space to familiarize with new methods and familiarity of professors with new methods of education occur in the festival. «The most important positive effects of the festival are that a space is made that members of scientific board, who participate, can be familiar with new processes and methods of education and run them».

Identifying educational ability and capabilities of professors

Necessity of continuous appraisal of education is from factors effective on identifying educational ability and capabilities of professors in Shahid Motahhari educational festival. «We should appraise. It is, how this thing that we educate, is used in practice. So, they should specify and announce criteria of quality appraisal, quality guarantee or quality accreditation and continuously, they appraise education». « If we want increase quality in an educational institute slightly, one of parts that may be manipulated is appraisal that when we enter appraisal, education is changed or spoiled or improved at the same proportion».

Increasing motivation of desired work

Increasing motivation of desired work is from other positive features of the festival. «Of the most important positive effects of the festival is to increase people's motivation. Many people who participated in educational works, but their works were not somewhere that wanted to be provided; every year we witness this that their processes are provided in academic and national levels». In relation to granting encouraging base to superior processes, a participant states «by – law determines this position that those whose processes become superior, get encouraging base, get a good score in knowledge- researching, it has a good effects in their promotion and based on value of their work, they have been encouraged as cash».

Making role of professors' education outstanding

A participant indicates a positive role of the festival in exiting educational role of professors from under shadow of research «Shahid Motahhari festival was established with the same intention that role of education can be strengthened. In academic areas, role of education has had under shadow

of research that has been with intention of getting score to promote and not with intention of getting skill or knowledge». Making role of professors' education outstanding is other subject that in regard to the festival, it is discussed « Shahid Motahhari festival could provide required field and actions, but not in extent of action that makes promotion. As well, universities should bring education above than research».

B: Factors related to challenges of promoting quality of medical education

Insufficiently knowing activities of knowledge-researching of education

In relation to not meeting Shahid Motahhari educational festival to goals of knowledge-researching «the festival provided a good opportunity for professors that provided required talks in the festival». In relation to becoming knowledge-researching away from its goal, a participant added «knowledge-researching like Shahid Motahhari festival went off the rails, too. Talk was that if one instead of in research, does research work, he / she provides special innovations in education, in knowledge – researching it was seen that again, finally what was seen, could not meet that goal in practice. If we see whether Shahid Motahhari festival and knowledge – researching helped a desired education, we say a score that we can give it, is 30 of 100».

Structural problems of running Shahid Motahhari educational festival

Based on findings of existing study, there were many problems in running Shahid Motahhari festival such as «one of problems of Shahid Motahhari festival is to press time of the festival». Protestation to arbitration of the festival is another subject that was indicated. «In my opinion, arbitration of the festival has also drawback. So, Motahhari festival could not have made a process such that it should and may be good educational processes or programs are reinforced and grown». Not displaying products of the festival is other problem that the clear sighted points out it « one of my criticisms to the festival is that its products are not displayed. Again, they are provided in paper method but, product cannot be touched precisely.

Not effectively releasing knowledge - researching processes and activities of education

Of other existing challenges, it is not effectively releasing processes. « Goal of Shahid Motahhari educational festival is that new processes of education are in all educational levels and groups. This event has not occurred that worries us in headquarter. Therefore, any reason that has existed should be analyzed». In regard to needing time to produce science and releasing it « if we want to measure effectiveness of a program on education, many factors affect from light of class and noise and to educational content. Therefore, if we have discussion of producing science, we should give time to run

programs. Perhaps, it lasts for 10 to 20 years. At that time, we can say we would reach to somewhere.

Unclear fate of superior processes

A participant in relation to pursuing to run processes, say such « really, doing changes to improve quality of education is an easy but difficult work. Sometimes, we think it is very simple but making a small change in education may need many considerations that it is necessary that we pay attention to it and a point that really, is important in discussion of improving educational quality and changes, is that while we should avoid laziness and futile delay, we should avoid hastiness and low mood, too. If we want to introduce some of changes in content of education as doping and artificial, sometimes it is possible it is returned due to immaturity of system. An important point of avoiding hastiness while having a clear and realistic schedule has much importance».

Not suitably informing

In relation of not punctually informing time of holding the festival, there are problems «some do creative works in university that did not provide them to the festival at all since the festival has not had a suitable informing» or «a story that usually occurs in Shahid Motahhari festival is that they inform very late and say, bring whatever project that you have till one other month. Most of things that professors write, are usually bungling works that they did».

No possibility of running some process

No possibility of running some process is other challenge of Shahid Motahhari educational festival. «Those that have typically type of knowledge – researching, do they have criteria of classic quality? They mostly have not». «I can design a process, the process become superior too, it gets rank, it is also a good work, but academic body that I am working in it and executive actors that I am working with them do not take process so that it should and may be or field is not provided. Consider, this is a part of a process». In some people opinions, there is resistance against providing processes good and doing in university. «When we want to help that they provide process and it is placed in framework, they resist».

Not being outstanding of educational activities in university

Not specifying and unifying goal of teacher and learner informs on not being outstanding of educational activities in university. «Quality is made when learner has readiness. If we want to educate one forcibly, it has no usefulness. Quality of our education is not good because learner people and teachers have no unique and clear goal, professor wants to get promotion, get money and his / her life is passed. Student's goal is that he / she gets degree. Both have drawback». Ignoring members of successful scientific board is one of

reasons of not being outstanding of educational activities in university. «When member of our scientific board goes to hold a successful class and spends time for an efficient class or educating student in round of hospital, or it spends time in clinic, where is it seen?».

C: Process and structure of running the festival
Permanent and active secretariat

Permanent zing activities of Shahid Motahhari educational festival and not its exclusiveness to a special interval is a subject that the clear sighted indicate it. «We have no doubt, one of works that can be effective, is that rather than we come and sum process of knowledge-researching as case annually and assess it, we bring it in national system and the same early, we register process in the system. In the same system along time, it is scored continuously and at end of problem, it is emerged in frame of an assembly that its name is festival once per year». Taking software and hardware infrastructures is necessary and required to promote quality of the festival. «If we want to promote quality, at first infrastructures should be taken in hardware and software dimensions, too. When we say, in hardware dimensions, intention is this that for example, an educational institute or a college or a hospital should have required indices and standards».

Separately running seminar and festival (due to difference of their nature)

Merging seminar and festival due to saving and suggestion of separating them in view of advantages of separating is discussed subject of the clear sighted. «once Shahid Motahhari festival was separate from medical education seminar. In my opinion, this separating seminar and festival helped both. once discussion was that much cost is imposed to hold seminar to university and educational system, too and the same thing caused to merge seminar and festival and this merging made trouble for both seminar and festival. Members who have tendency to participate in festival, there is a series of other programs in medical education seminar of coincidentally that they want to participate in those programs, too». In relation to coincidence of festival and seminar and dulling role of each other and separating Shahid Motahhari festival from medical education seminar, « firstly, discussion of separating seminar from festival has been posed, forever. Although every year, it has not directly occurred with sovereignty opinion of educational assistant of Ministry of Health and or with coordination of collection of committee, a part has related to saving money, too. In my opinion, there is still a room if budgetary problems are solved; we separate these from each other completely. Since merging festival and seminar with each other is not very interesting».

Discussion

attention to quality of education in universities and in following it, attention to growth of members of scientific board to promote quality of education and train efficient human force have much importance [13]. The present study was done in order to determine understanding and life experience of members of scientific board, experts and the clear sighted of medical education in field of effect of Shahid Motahhari festival on promoting quality of medical education as qualitative. In this study, from view of experts of medical education of the country, factors such as networking and teamwork in education, developing knowledge-researching of education in medical education, spreading process orientation in education, introducing new approaches of education, identifying educational ability and capabilities of professors, increasing motivation of desired work and making role of professors' education outstanding are from important facilitator factors of promoting quality of medical education in Shahid Motahhari educational festival. from view of participants in this research, one of necessary programs in promoting professors and quality of education was discussed as knowledge-researching programs and it was mentioned that the festival is effective on knowledge -researching and is developable in discussion of knowledge-researching. From view of professors and experts of medical education, one of the most main goals of the festival was to develop knowledge-researching and condition knowledge - researching and they believed when knowledge-researching was necessary in promotion, very better products were seen in the festival, but precisely since it was exited from necessary state in promotion, loss of quality was made in products that were provided in Shahid Motahhari festival. In fact, one of drawbacks of knowledge- researching that to date, has been noted less, is educational knowledge-researching. In this type of knowledge-researching, done activities are put in area of education [14-16] Jalili in his study showed that no doubt, adding educational knowledge - researching to by - law of promoting members of scientific board will basically help change in area of medical education in universities [17]. From view of participants in interview, investigating processes and introducing educational processes are from factors effective on spreading process orientation in education and one of positive effects of the festival is to make opportunity for educational processes. In Hosseini's study, scientific board participating in the festival appraised how to choose processes after suitably informing the festival as the second suitable performance of the festival and choosing processes in academic and national levels by preparing suitable checklists with participation and approval of different universities of the country and making unanimity between them during 6 past periods provided suitable results in attracting satisfaction of members of scientific board participating in the festival [12]. In study of Dadman, et al it is also suggested, by revising provisions of by-law and

adding other educational cases and also, reforming ceiling of scores, it can be taken to dissolve limitations of present by-laws and encourage professors to use innovative and creative processes in improving educational quality of universities [18]. of other factors effective on promoting quality of medical education is to investigate challenges of the festival and existence of factors like insufficiently knowing knowledge-researching of education, structural problems of running Shahid Motahhari educational festival, not effectively releasing knowledge-researching processes and activities, unclear fate of superior processes, not suitably informing, no possibility of running some process and not being outstanding of educational activities in university is from existing challenges in promoting quality of medical education. members of scientific board participating in this study believed that one of challenges and faults of Shahid Motahhari festival was that the festival had not a good informing and many had not awareness that when the festival is held. In study of Hosseini, et al in appraisal of Shahid Motahhari festival by members of scientific board participating in the festival, highest score was in regard to dimensions of assessment (field, input, process and output) in how to hold the festival and inform members of scientific board in field of producing educational processes [12]. Participants in this research stated that inattention to education and converting university into a research center, allocating maximum score to research in university and placing education in light of research are from not being outstanding of educational activities in university. in this end, a part of results of study of Changiz, et al that had been qualitatively done between members of scientific board in regard to expectations of members of scientific board of medical sciences universities of the country about centers of studies and development of medical educations, showed in opinion of members of scientific board, in our country research is merely constructed with aim of professional promotion to date and in other words, research is constructed for research and getting research score, not to solve problem and serve to education. Also, they stated, today scientific development of members of scientific board is investigated though scientific - research activities and members of scientific board's excessive attention to research is in order to get promotion score [19]. In this end, most of participants in Majdzadeh's study pointed out that importance of research has caused that role of education is dulled in promoting members of scientific board and education is overshadowed as main mission of scientific board [20]. Some of members of scientific board knew not to pursue provided processes and not run processes from challenges of Shahid Motahhari festival to promote quality of education that this result is in coordination with result of study of Hosseini, et al. in Hosseini's study, most of problems was in area of results, it is, in spite of members of scientific board appraised how to

hold the festival more suitable than other areas, immediately in following it they announced area of background as suitable, too but in the following they appraised sources and finally results as unsuitable. In this end, it seems in spite of much effort and endeavor from holders of the festival (in all national and academic levels) and providing required primary fields, they have much distance with meeting announced goals [12]. that this result is in coordination with findings of the present study. In the present study, one of factors effective on promoting quality of medical education from view of experts of medical education of the country is process of running the festival. Existence of factors like permanent and active secretariat and separately running medial education development seminar and Shahid Motahhari educational festival due to difference of their nature is from factors effective on process of running the festival to promote quality of medical education from view of experts and professors. Participants in Hosseini's study also believed, since for start and durability of affairs in the festival, need for suitable informing is from necessities and this duty in holding the festival is undertaken by secretariat office, need for permanent and active secretariat is a part of process of running the festival and solutions of promoting quality of education. [12]. In this research, not allocating enough budget to education was one of reasons of not being outstanding of educational activities in university and from problems of promoting educational quality and members of scientific board in the festival knew coincidence of Shahid Motahhari festival with medical education seminar due to saving in costs caused to dull role of the festival and medical education seminar. In study of Hosseini, et al providing required facilities to produce educational processes and providing enough budget to research in education have been from the most important faults facing by members of scientific board in Shahid Motahhari festival, too [12].

Conclusion

Medical education system of the country, according to the present clear sighted suffers from various challenges that consequentially, it needs to do special studies by using quantitative and qualitative tools to achieve practical solutions to solve them and converting these challenges into opportunity for health system of the country. In view of findings of this study in regard to effect of Shahid Motahhari festival in promoting quality of education in medicine, by solving structural problems of running Shahid Motahhari educational festival, networking and teamwork in education, introducing new approaches of education, spreading process orientation in education, developing knowledge–researching in education, identifying educational ability and capabilities, increasing motivation of desired work between members of scientific board and making role of professors' education outstanding can be taken.

limitations of study can be problematizing presence of researcher in the given environment of members of scientific board, especially participants in Shahid Motahhari festival and probability of not providing deep information by some people, probability of not desire to interview for some participants in the study and basing responses on conservativeness and privacy. It should be noted that in doing interview, running and coding and determining themes, maximum precision was done that probable errors were minimized.

Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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