



## MODERN TRENDS IN LEARNING SYSTEM, HEALTHCARE SERVICE AND RESEARCH IN GULF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, AJMAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: A PROSPECTIVE VIEW

**Dr.Satheesha Nambiar Periya<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy.

**Dr.Ahmed Sebihi<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Social Sciences, Department of General Education, Gulf Medical University, Ajman, United Arab Emirates.

### ABSTRACT

**T**he education has both intellectual and economic value. Modern education encourages imagination, creativity and interest in knowledge. It also gives students more opportunities for high-paying jobs and offers better economic security and social status. Modern education sprouts in many ways and forms depending on how we look at it. Our views of what it should look like and how it should materialize depends entirely on our value of it and our experience with education and knowledge.

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Knowledge, Globalization, Higher Education

### INTRODUCTION

The subject of education is of such fundamental importance, of such vital interest to every one of us, and covers such a vast field with all of its varied aspects. We feel that this study is train ourselves in reflective meditation on such a subject, in particular, the lines of development and objectives along which we must concentrate our creative action. Education has often been considered as synonymous to "instruction," i.e. the imparting of knowledge and information. Up until a short time ago and even now the majority of schools of all levels has aimed, more or less openly, at such a goal, and has intended to carry out such a function. That education, in the true meaning of the word, is something quite different, something that is much more inclusive, and that in a certain sense, even has the opposite meaning.

### DISCUSSION

In the midst of the world events that are rapidly unfolding, and of the whirl and pressure of outer activity, we must remember that all visible, material events have inner causes stemming from imagination, thought, and from the will. Hold this firmly in your awareness and live accordingly; spread its acceptance; apply it with persistence in promoting the new forms that will be taking the place of the old ones.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, education has been identified by many as the essential means of preparing citizens to compete in a "knowledge-based" global economy. In higher education, globalization and rising inter-connectivity is manifested in a variety of trends, such as a growing number of students who receive degrees from universities outside their country of origin, who participate in "study abroad" programs, the



emergence of international “branch” campuses, the presence of international faculty, and global higher education ranking systems. Globalization strategies worldwide have led to an increasingly homogenized higher education sector, as governments and institutions seek to meet global standards.

In this regard, there has been tremendous growth in higher education in the Arab world since the last years of the twentieth century. Student enrollment has jumped from roughly 3 million students in 1998/99 to about 7.5 million students in 2007/08, while the number of universities has grown almost three-fold in the same time period. Higher education in the region has also trended toward increased privatization, though considerable differences occur between countries; Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, and the UAE.

Here we focus on the good education and important role played by the uprisings Gulf Medical University in United Arab Emirates, fulfilling the needs and demands of students.

Gulf Medical University (GMU) formerly known as Gulf Medical College, established in 1998, is a private university in the United Arab Emirates. It offers undergraduate and post graduate education in various fields of medicine. Gulf Medical University is the first medical school in the U.A.E to offer admission to both males and females of all nationalities. Thumbay Moideen is the founder President, Board of Governors of Gulf Medical University and is owned and promoted by Thumbay group. GMU was listed in Asia’s 100 best and fastest growing private education institutes by World consulting and Research Corporation (WCRC) Leaders-Asia Magazine.

Gulf Medical University (GMU) is located in the emirate of Ajman, on the western coast of the UAE. GMU, Initially the University offered certified courses in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Physiotherapy. The college was opened under Decree Number 1, issued on 28 January 1998, by His Highness Sheikh Humaid Bin Rashid Al-Nuaimi, the ruler of Ajman and Member of the Supreme Council, UAE.

The Gulf Medical University came into existence with the Decree issued by the Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin

Mubarak Al Nahyan on the 10th of July 2008 when the Gulf Medical College, Ajman was officially approved as the Gulf Medical University.

The Gulf Medical College Ajman began with the M.B.B.S program and later the Bachelor of Physiotherapy program was added in October 2000. Today the Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research has recognized the Gulf Medical University as a center of excellence and has permitted the University to foray into newer programs in Pharm D, DMD, and Masters Programs in Clinical Pathology, Toxicology and Public Health.

The focus of the Gulf Medical University is in the three core areas of Medical Education, Healthcare and Research. The university strives to develop these three core areas as spotlights of medical excellence in the coming years.

The university has infrastructure and facilities, which is on par with some of the established medical institutions around the world. Apart from the academic programs, Gulf Medical University is in the forefront of Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development Programs. The university has been organizing well acclaimed International and Regional conferences and Symposia. The university also publishes a quarterly Health magazine - GMC Health Journal, as part of its commitment to informative medical journalism.

Gulf Medical University Ajman is promoted by the Thumbay Group U.A.E. The group is professionally managed and has grown at a tremendous pace and is today a dynamic conglomerate with diverse interests, employing over 3000 people in its operations spreading across the globe. Apart from health care the group’s current focus area including education, real estate, turnkey projects, information technology, consultancy, timber, shipping, import and export.

The Gulf Medical University is located on a vast stretch of land extending up to a 1 Million Sq.ft. and a built area of 1 Million Sq.ft. (being built in phases) that currently houses the main campus and its support facilities. It has within itself laboratories, classrooms and administration buildings, a stand-alone building that houses the library and the modern multimedia centers, a restaurant and a sports complex with courts for tennis, basketball, volleyball and grounds for cricket and football.

## MISSION & VISION



### Mission Statement:-

It is the Mission of the Gulf Medical University to strengthen and promote excellence in medical education, biomedical research and patient care.

- ✧ GMU is committed to prepare a highly skilled health workforce made up of health care professionals, health management and support workers and health science investigators in order to meet the health care needs of the nation and the region.
- ✧ GMU will strive to produce health care professionals who will integrate the advances in research with the best clinical practices.
- ✧ GMU will promote health services, which incorporate the latest advances in scientific knowledge in a manner that supports education and research for the benefit of the community.

### Vision Statement:-

The Vision of Gulf Medical University is to be a leading contributor to the continuous improvement of the nation's health care delivery system through the pursuit of excellence in medical education, biomedical research and health care services.

- ✧ The University aspires to provide a unique learning experience of high quality to our students and produce graduates whose competence will help to make a significant contribution to the health of the community through pursuit of academia, research and health care.
- ✧ The University aspires to attract the best of students by offering a variety of excellent programs supported by quality administration and student support services.
- ✧ The University aspires to be known for excellence and impact of its research on the educational milieu of the nation and the outcomes of clinical care.

- ✧ The University aspires to be an integral part of the community through transfer of knowledge, continuous dialogue with the country's health care planners and enhanced community service

GMU is presently the most sought-after private medical university in the UAE. GMU is the first private medical university in UAE catering to all nationalities admitting students of both genders, presently having students from over 73 nationalities, and faculty and staff from 22 nations. GMU offers a range of courses including MBBS, BPT, DMD, PharmD and Masters Programs in Clinical Pathology, Public Health, and Toxicology. GMU is first in the region to launch unique programs like Masters in Human Reproductive Biology, Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences and Masters in Physical Therapy. GMU's campus is enriched by the presence of the Centre for Advanced Biomedical Research and Innovation (CABRI), the biggest laboratory chain in UAE with four full-fledged laboratories and sample collection centers across the various Emirates, and the Center for Advanced Simulation in Healthcare (CASH), a multidisciplinary educational facility integrating simulation as an educational tool for providing a state-of-the-art, safe learning environment that promotes professional development.

Thumbay Group, established in 1998 and headquartered in DIFC Dubai, UAE announces a major drive to expand its healthcare operations globally as well as in the UAE by building the biggest private academic hospital in the region, thereby establishing itself as the largest private academic healthcare provider in the region. This project is expected to be completed at a rapid pace and become operational in a record time of 15 months. Mr. Thumbay Moideen, the Founder President of Thumbay Group announced the strategic plan of the group to open 15 more hospitals in the next five years. The group also plans to add a chain of Thumbay Eye Hospitals & Thumbay Fertility Centres shortly, as part of the strategic plan. Plans are also afoot to open 25 more Thumbay Labs, 100 More

Thumbay Pharmacies, 25 outlets of NutriPlus Vita, 25 outlets of Zo & Mo Optical and three more University Campuses in Ghana, Malaysia & India, by the end of 2020. With the completion of the above projects, the group will employ 6000 people in the next two years, which will reach 15,000 employees by the end of 2020. The total investment of the expansion project is valued at more than AED 1.2 billion.

The new 400-bed teaching hospital, a 60-chair dental hospital and a hi-tech rehabilitation centre are coming up in the campus of Gulf Medical University in Al Jurf, Ajman. These new projects, once operational, will add to the training and research facilities of students of the various colleges under Gulf Medical University which is on the fast-track to emerging as a research and innovation based medical university in the region.

The new hospital which is expected to be completed by 2017-18, will be the biggest private academic hospital in the region. It is envisioned as a state-of-the-art, purpose-built 400-bed smart facility, which will be the teaching hospital of Gulf Medical University. The hospital will be equipped with modern infrastructure and will also focus on medical tourism. It will be constructed over 320,000 square feet area, in four floors, and with over 120 clinics. The hospital will also have a full-fledged radiology department with Positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT) scan, a first of its kind in the northern Emirates. With the ultramodern facilities of the hospital, Thumbay Group aims to continue its tradition of providing high quality healthcare services at affordable costs. The hospital's state-of-the-art laboratory will be connected to Thumbay Labs and Center for Advanced Biomedical Research and Innovation (CABRI) - GMU's world-class research and diagnostics facility) via an unmanned chute, to offer highly specialized tests and diagnostic facilities.

Among the new hospitals coming up, the ones in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Ghana are in progress, which will be announced in the next few months.

The upcoming dental facility will be a full-fledged dental hospital which will have all dental specialties under one roof, in addition to teaching and training the students of GMU's College of Dentistry. The dental hospital will be constructed over an area of 30,000 sq. feet in three floors. A hi-tech rehabilitation center hosting a unique state-of-the-art Sports Medicine, Hydrotherapy unit, GAIT Analysis lab and an Ergonomic simulation lab that will promote

analytical and therapeutic services will be constructed in three floors in an area of 30,000 square feet. The center will provide specialized physiotherapy services in the fields of Musculoskeletal, Cardio-respiratory, Neurology, Pediatrics and Women's Health. The center will also train the physical therapy students of the university.

"Across all our hospitals, we will bring together highly skilled professionals and the latest advancements in medical technology. They will be centers of Excellence in various specialties, providing quaternary care," says Mr. Akbar Moideen Thumbay, Vice President of the Healthcare Division of Thumbay Group.

The Group is developing its various hospitals into centers of excellence with Bone & Joint as well as Plastic Surgery & Cosmetics centers of excellence at Thumbay Hospital Dubai, and Obstetrics & Gynecology, IVF & Fetal Medicine and Cardiac Sciences centers of excellence in Ajman. Thumbay Hospital New Life - Hyderabad, will establish an Advanced Transplant Center in India.

The new hospital will be a smart hospital with the most advanced robotics being used in Pharmacy, Lab & Surgical procedures. Neurosciences, Andrology & Urology centers of excellence will also be established. It will be a quaternary care hospital and will play an important role in offering specialized care services like comprehensive transplant program & advanced oncology services.

"The International Medical Tourism department of Thumbay Hospitals aims to cater to an extensive number of patients and to be known as the preferred hospital for medical tourism in UAE," says Mr. Akbar Moideen Thumbay. As part of the strategic plans, Thumbay Group is planning to open representative offices in 20 countries to educate people about medical facilities and services at all Thumbay Hospitals in the UAE, and expect to have about 1000 medical tourists daily at hospitals, in the next 5 - 6 years.

Thumbay Group strive to achieve excellence in all our activities, thrive by creating a competitive atmosphere and providing all necessary resources to convert ideas into reality, making it exciting for anyone who wishes to pursue their career in this organization. The university encourage and allow young and dynamic individuals to explore their hidden talents and use their services for the benefit of the society at large. It also provide an equal opportunity to all applicants. No applicant shall be discriminated on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin or disability status.



## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

1. *Dr.Satheesha Nambiar Periya*, is currently working as Associate Professor, and Head of the Department of Anatomy, Gulf Medical University, Ajman, UAE. He has been in teacher and researcher in Medical schools in India for more than twenty five years. He has been involved in teaching to Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Allied Health Science students. He has been graduated from Mangalore University and postgraduate from University of Madras in India. He has been underwent postdoctoral research training in Nihon University Tokyo, Japan. His area of interest is Neuroscience.
2. Researcher, committed teacher and educator, *Dr. Ahmed Sebihi* has more than 23 years' experience all over the world.

*Dr. Ahmed Sebihi* has started his professional career as a Chief Editor in an Algerian weekly newspapers "AL SAMURAH" and "AL AQEEDAH" before moving to Tunisia to work as a correspondent with "RUSSIKADIA" Newspaper. He then relocated to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assume the role of Director of Media Centre and Public Relations in the High Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the patronage of H.H. King Fahed Ibn Abdul Aziz, May his Soul rest in Peace.

*Dr. Ahmed Sebihi* shifted to the Academic Profession in 2010 as Lecturer in the American University in the Emirates (AUE) for almost 5 years and before that in the Canadian University of Dubai (CUD), Gulf Medical University of Ajman (GMU), the University of Sharjah (UOS), Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU), Ajman University of Sciences and Technology Network (AUST), University College for Mother and Family Sciences (UCMFS), Ahmed Sebihi has developed a great deal of educational, learning and teaching skills throughout his long enriching experience, which led him to his actual rank of Assistant Professor in Islamic culture and Social Sciences in Gulf Medical University.

*Dr. Ahmed* has led a range of workshops for teachers and students in Thailand and in the UAE and has many contributions in all levels of the educational scale in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Malaysia, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates