Inclusion of Mini Dissertation at Undergraduate Level in Anatomy
Pradeep Bokariya 1, Ruchi Kothari 2, Anup Shyamal 3

Considering the wide diversity of Anatomy, the rising intellect of students and to develop scientific temper, to acquire educational experience for proficiency in profession and promote healthy living among undergraduates, there should be provision for mini dissertation.

Purpose
- To inculcate the habit of research among undergraduates.
- To understand the subject in a much more better way (Practical approach to Theory).
- Interest for Anatomy is decreasing among students.
- To develop the concept of team work.
- To develop clinical know how among first year students.
- To evaluate and analyse scientifically various established facts and data
- Better approach towards learning applied knowledge of subject.
- Enhancement of presentation skills among students.
- Revival of latest research among senior faculty also.

Disadvantages
- Student may find it an extra burden.
- Duration of the course is 1 year only.
- Too early for medical undergraduates.
- Compilation of references might be difficult.
- Negative findings may be there.
- Co-operation of all staff members may not be there.
- Distraction from regular studies might be there.

If this happens
- Whatever findings are there, they should be encouraged.
- Student should not be discouraged.
- We can have a separate Journal for Undergraduates.
- Faculty of other subjects can also be invited
- Some percentage of marks can be provided.
- Positive findings can be further persuaded by senior faculty.

Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing pre packed assignments and spitting out the answers. There are few drawbacks also but keeping both pros and cons in mind it won’t be a wrong decision to apply this newer approach of learning.

References

Hunter, A., Laursen, S.L., Seymour, E. (2007) Becoming a scientist: The role of undergraduate research in students’ cognitive, personal, and professional development, Science Education, 91, pp. 36-74

1 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anatomy,
2 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physiology,
3 Post Graduate, Dept. of Anatomy,
Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, India

Corresponding Author: Pradeep Bokariya
Address: Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram Wardha (M.S), 442102, India
Email: pradeepbokariya@rediffmail.com