Creating a User-Driven Student Perspective in a Nepalese Medical School

P. Ravi Shankar, KIST Medical College, Nepal

ABSTRACT

Medical students and the number of medical schools are increasing in Nepal and South Asia. The student perspective does not receive sufficient attention in most schools. In this paper, the author shares initiatives in creating a user-driven student perspective in a private medical school in Lalitpur, Nepal. Communication was a key component and the author used the internet extensively to communicate with students in addition to printed written materials.

Keywords: Communication, Medical School, Medical Students, Nepal, User Perspective

INTRODUCTION

KIST Medical College (KISTMC) admitted its first batch of undergraduate medical (MBBS) students in November 2008. The institution is affiliated to Tribhuvan University for the MBBS course. The college has the vision to create competent, humane and compassionate healthcare professionals through excellence in holistic education, healthcare and research.

A perspective article had examined the changing role of the medical student in United States (US) medical schools (Ludmerer, 2004). Before the Second World War in the US educating medical students was one of the primary missions of medical schools. The author states that schools have not created a true learner-centered environment that makes active, self-directed learning under the close tutelage of interested faculty members. Learner centered education has been subordinated to patient care and research according to the author. Medical schools especially in the US have to give priority once again for teaching medical students. An article had examined the use of web 2.0 tools like wikis, blogs and other social networking tools in health sciences education (Lemley & Burham, 2009). According to the authors 45% of medical schools had used web 2.0 tools in their curricula. In Nepal I had used only e-mail to communicate with students and created a site using freely available software to share information.

Nepal is a developing country in South Asia with 18 medical schools at the beginning of January 2012 (Nepal Medical Council, n.d.). The majority of schools are in the private sector. The six basic science subjects of anatomy, physi-
The MOBEL Project: Experiences from Applying User-Centered Methods for Designing Mobile ICT for Hospitals