



Medical Education and Social Accountability of Medicine Schools

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Editorial

Medical education is a social process necessary to achieve universal health, but in the Region of the Americas there is a lack of studies that report on its characteristics and it is unknown if the medical schools it meets with their social function and the needs of the population.

A study recently carried out by Latin American and the Caribbean Association of Medical Faculties and Schools conducted in 105 of them in the Region of the Americas, shows that 36% of them considered there are no national policies to train human resources in health and 63% think that the public funds are insufficient for the medical education. In other hand, 31% of schools consider there are mechanisms to regulate medical education and 78% think there are insufficient regulatory instruments.

This lack of regulation explains the excess and deficit of doctors in the countries, so Argentina and Cuba have higher rates of physicians that industrialized countries such as Canada and the United States, while Bolivia and Guyana only reach rates of 0.5 per 1000 and 0.2 per 1000 inhabitants, respectively.

According to these results, it is necessary to reiterate the need for the medical schools to plan the training of doctors according to the health needs of population, if the health of their populations is to be achieved.

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