

THE UTILITY OF PORTFOLIOS IN POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



INTRODUCTION



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OUTLINE

- **WHY PORTFOLIOS?**
- **WHAT ARE PORTFOLIOS?**
- **REFLECTION**
- **PORTFOLIOS VERSUS LOGBOOKS**
- **USES OF PORTFOLIOS**
- **PLANNING A PORTFOLIO**
- **BENEFITS OF PORTFOLIOS**
- **CONCLUSION**

WHY PORTFOLIOS?

- Competency Based Curricula are now in use in all the Faculties in the College.
- These curricula were introduced several years ago and have made it possible for us to **evaluate the knowledge, skills and attitudes of our residents objectively.**
- This necessitated the introduction of **log books** which are used to document, assess and score the domains outlined in these curricula.





➤ Why then do we need Portfolios?

- We shall get to know at the end of the lectures today.
- However, it is pertinent to note that the **logbooks** do not give room for **FEEDBACK AND REFLECTIONS** which are the strongest points for the use of **Portfolios**.

WHAT ARE PORTFOLIOS?

- **Portfolios** are a compilation of academic and professional materials that displays ones beliefs, skills, qualifications, education, training and experiences.
- They are tools used to enhance learning and reflections.
- For the resident , it is a place to store and keep records of the learning process.



REFLECTION-A KEY COMPONENT OF PORTFOLIOS

► What is Reflection?

This is the account of events, what has been learnt and plan for how new learning needs will be tackled.

PORTFOLIOS versus LOGBOOKS

Logbook	Portfolio
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides evidence of having been through a learning experience• Enlists what all learning activities have been performed• Records the tasks done leading to competency development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides evidence of having learnt from that experience• Describes how learning has happened through those activities• Records the students' reflections on those tasks
Similarities: Both serve as a longitudinal record of learning, providing an opportunity for formative assessment.	


Table 2: Examples of entries made in Logbook and Portfolio

Logbook (Activity)	Portfolio (Students' reflections corresponding to the activity)
Visit to the medicine ward to see adverse drug reactions	"I saw a patient who had a rash following drug administration. Anti-histamines were given, but the condition worsened and the skin kept coming off. A specialist opinion revealed the diagnosis of SJ syndrome. I realised that it is not appropriate to pass off all rashes as drug rash and a more careful follow-up is needed."
Small group discussion on importance of communication skill	"I realised that I often interrupt others while they are talking and jump to leading questions to quickly gather important information. Now on, I should ask more open-ended questions and listen carefully with good eye-contact"
History taking during Clinical posting in Psychiatry	"The patient was suffering from depression. But her presenting complaints were headache, feeling tired, and inability to concentrate. On gentle probing, she talked about persistent depressed mood and death wishes. I realised patients may be uncomfortable talking about personal feelings, may not be even aware they should be telling these to the doctor. I need to ask specific questions in the right manner to make a clear diagnosis"
Visit to a primary health care centre	"I saw the medical officer referring a diabetic patient to the surgery department of a tertiary health care centre for toe gangrene. He had been walking bare feet, had developed injuries since some time, but did not feel the need to consult earlier. I realised how health education can play such an important role in reducing personal suffering and cost of care. Had the patient known and practised basic foot care, this would not have happened."

POTENTIAL USES OF A PORTFOLIO IN RESIDENCY TRAINING

Portfolios can be used :

- **To reflect and learn-**Through reflection, the learner can examine his or her personal performance, analyse and come to terms with what went well and what went wrong. The resident is then able to set out learning strategies to improve. Self learning is therefore facilitated.

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- **As an instrument of decision making-**Portfolios can facilitate assessment of a residents' progress by facilitating the collection of information that will aid the critical assessment of the trainees' progress. Milestones and competencies can then be objectively evaluated.
 - **As quality assurance tools-** Portfolios can also be used as a quality assurance instruments. This is done through determining how many procedures have been performed, success rate of procedures. Records of attendance at recommended conferences, revision and update courses can also be assessed.



PLANNING A PORTFOLIO

- ❖ **What is the purpose of the portfolio?**
- ❖ **What items should be included?**
- ❖ **How will the items be selected?**
- ❖ **How will the items be organized?**




❖ How will the portfolios be stored?

❖ How will the portfolios be assessed?

❖ What formats will be used to allow residents to share their portfolios?



BENEFITS OF PORTFOLIOS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR THE RESIDENT

- ALLOWS THE RESIDENT TO DOCUMENT THEIR LEARNING PROCESS.
 - OFFERS THE RESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ABOUT THEIR LEARNING.
 - ENABLES THEM TO TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE ,ATTITUDE AND SKILLS OVER TIME.
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CONCLUSION

- ❑ Portfolios are becoming widely used in postgraduate medical training worldwide.
- ❑ Poor understanding of its utility has hindered its wider acceptance.
- ❑ This Train-the Trainer(TOT) seminar is therefore aimed at introducing the Fellows and Trainers to this rapidly evolving training tool.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**