
Book Review


This book as the author claims in the preface is meant for MBBS and BDS students. The author says that she has tried to meet the recommendations of the Medical Council of India by emphasizing the area of rational therapeutics. One very important feature of this book is that after each chapter there is an explanatory note as to why a particular option is the right answer to an item. While the students may find it helpful in satisfying their curiosity, it is no substitute for going through the standard text books for meaningful learning and the development of critical reasoning. The book as a whole is laudable attempt at bringing out a collection of MCQ's. However there have been several pitfalls in the construction and format of several items. To cite a few, in several of the items the stem does not go grammatically with the options. Several of the items have clues. MCQs as we know is an instrument for measuring knowledge. However, the presence of clues in the items tend to bring down validity of the instrument and helps the not so well prepared learners in guessing the correct option. Certain items have distracters which are not plausible thereby decreasing the efficacy. A distracter to be termed effective should attract at least 5% of the examinees. Non-plausible distracters are unlikely to achieve this. It is hoped that the author will take steps to avoid these shortcomings in the 2nd edition of this otherwise very useful book meant for undergraduate medical students.

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