The main purpose of evaluation in medical education is to gain the basis in order to judge how much the learner (student) has improved in skills as a doctor and a researcher. The curriculum for training are required to be developed and modified in their appropriateness based upon this evaluation. A learner has to undergo continual evaluation beginning at entrance examination followed by many exams in each course in his college, for graduation, for qualification as a specialist, for the post-graduate course and for his medical degree. Medical education aiming at acquisition not only of knowledge but also skills in the speciality including diligent attitude has its appropriate goal according to the grade of the learner. It has also additional attainable goal besides the fundamental requirements. In order to make the learner to obtain each goal, the teachers devise the scheme, evaluate the learners, and are informed by the feedback.

However, medical teachers who perform the educational activity including an important task of assessment and evaluation have almost never been trained as teachers. Under the status quo, teachers in elementary, junior high, and senior high schools have been provided with systematic training to be qualified for teachers while most of all doctors who are responsible for medical education have not. The Japan Society of Medical Education has been taking leading part in training medical teachers since 1974, and many workshops are sponsored by different levels, from the ministry of education or welfare to each college. But the number of participants in those workshops is still far smaller than that of the medical teachers.

The medical teachers have so far been discussing and dealing with the educational evaluation only within the specific territory of medical education without any opportunity to know how it has been assessed outside the school of medicine. The main topic “The educational evaluation in higher education” by authors outside the medical science was planned from this point of view. Detailed matters could not be discussed for want of space, fundamental concept of evaluation and methods available for medical education can be a good guide in future.

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