

## Problem based learning to enhance Day 1 skills for veterinary students

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**Background:** A problem based learning (PBL) approach has been implemented in the veterinary curriculum of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) as part of an OIE supported Educational Twinning Project between CVASU and Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. PBL is an active student-centered cooperative learning process and helps student develop critical and analytical thinking. The goal of the PBL at CVASU is to enhance problem-solving skills by integrating Day 1 competencies taught in various courses.

**Implementation:** Several presentations were made to faculty explaining how PBL can help students better learn the Day 1 competencies and how to implement PBL. Next, PBL sessions were conducted with a few groups of faculty and students from CVASU using PBL cases developed by Cummings School. These sessions were facilitated by visiting Cummings School faculty and students. Briefly, the group is given a problem case with minimum background information and asked to solve the problem. They are to identify “what is known” and “what is unknown” and then come up with a series of learning objectives, find answers on their own from all relevant sources and propose the next steps. At each step, the group must agree on the rationale for seeking further information and the role of facilitator is to assure that predefined learning objectives are addressed during the discussion. Finally, a PBL committee composed of various course directors at CVASU was charged with developing PBL cases with learning objectives that emphasize transboundary and zoonotic diseases, client communication, antimicrobial resistance, etc.

**Outcome:** A number of PBL cases are at various stages of development with input from Cummings School Faculty. An example of the cases developed will be presented at the poster session. Participating students and faculty responded enthusiastically to this form of learning. The PBL committee is fully engaged in developing PBL cases and instituting PBL in the CVASU curriculum.