

Education Officers from India call for Summer Internship Programme

VISITING education officers from India have made a call for the American University of Barbados, School of Medicine to host a Summer Internship Programme, for the benefit of their students who want to study here in Barbados.

The Education Officers who were present in Barbados within the last week, were on location at the American University of Barbados' new campus at the former BET Building, in Wildey, St. Michael.

The officials had the opportunity to tour the campus and also joined educational officials from the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation here in Barbados, to tour local schools and meet with educators to exchange vital information.

Associate Dean of the AUB, Dr. Syed Kazmi meanwhile has embraced the idea of having a Summer Internship.

"It's a very good idea. Students should

also have the hands on experience and we would definitely like to do that. If we can manage it somehow, I think the directors will also be really fascinated about this idea" he told *The Barbados Advocate*.

At present, the AUB aspires to produce medical graduates who are emotionally and culturally sensitive, and have a world-class competence, so that they can be valued and respected healers, and responsible citizens anywhere they choose. The university points out that its aim is not only to produce medical doctors with a good clinical knowledge, but also to instill in them ethics and values by which they can treat their patients with a human touch.

The AUB meanwhile seeks to provide world-class medical education with cutting edge equipment and pedagogy, in an environment that fosters appreciative enquiry, human sensitivity and collaborative research. (RSM)

Blackett: Social protection of the elderly a must

THE United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development states that while elder abuse has started to gain visibility across the world, financial abuse is still one of the least addressed issues in national action plans.

This grim reality was painted by Minister of Social Care Steven Blackett who was speaking on the eve of "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" which was recognised around the world recently.

The World Health Organization defines financial abuse as any "legal or improper exploitation or use of funds or resources of the older person."

The Social Care Minister said financial abuse has the potential to make elderly persons more susceptible to poverty, destitution and deprivation.

Blackett explained however, that the National Policy on Ageing for Barbados identified elder abuse as contributing to the social environmental factors which can undermine the social protection of the elderly.

Speaking at the official opening of Lancaster House in St. James, Blackett noted that one of the recommendations in the National Policy on Ageing was the development of a national protocol for the prevention, reporting, investigation and management of elder abuse.

The Minister revealed that at its most recent meeting in May 2017, the Committee to Monitor the Implementation of the National Policy on Ageing proposed to have stakeholders review and strengthened the Draft

Protocol, which would provide a framework for inter-agency collaboration and cooperation as well as establish common standards and mechanisms for reporting and managing elder abuse. "In addition, the Committee has identified those recommendations from the Policy which can be implemented and attained over the short and medium term."

This year's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day theme designated by the United Nations is, "Understand and End Financial Abuse of Older People: A Human Rights Issue".

Blackett noted that within this theme there is the assumption that ending the abuse among the elderly requires an understanding of the risks which they face and their vulnerability.

He noted that the 2012 Draft Protocol for the Prevention, Reporting, Investigation and Management of Elder Abuse in Barbados provides some indicators of financial and material abuse among the elderly.

These include unpaid bills and notices to disconnect utilities; unusual and unexplained activity occurring in bank accounts; signing legal documents without full understanding or signing under duress; discrepancy between income and standard of living; disappearance of possessions; suspicious signatures on cheques and other documents; changes in will and the bequeathing of asset and sudden new friends and relationships, to name a few. (JH)



A few of the education officers from India, as they gathered to discuss the India/Barbados educational partnership, on location at the American University of Barbados.

Vast knowledge offered

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"We look to welcome students to Barbados and to the AUB of course and hopefully, over time, we will see that fertilisation and that development and what you would call the linkages being created," Minister Jones told those gathered.

"At the same time, we see not only medical education, but education across the board as an important economic (pillar) in our country, that can augur well for us," he added.

"We talk about the internationalisation of education. We already have a solid (educational) foundation and today, on that brief tour, I am sure you saw some of what we are doing here. You will see

within Barbadian schools, a very dynamic flavour to education. There are still things we have to do and we are working at doing those, to ensure that the system that we have remains among the best in the world. So we want to embrace persons who come and we want to share with persons who come," he further asserted.

Associate Dean of the AUB, Dr. Syed Kazmi meanwhile told *The Barbados Advocate* that the AUB's directors definitely want to have the connection between India and Barbados established, as they have invested in the AUB and want to see some of the vast knowledge offered at top medical schools there, also shared with students at the American University of Barbados.



Associate Dean of the American University of Barbados, Dr. Syed Kazmi (right) speaks, as Deputy Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, Joy Adamson (left) and Senior Education Officer for Secondary Schools, Patricia Warner give him a listening ear.

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