Book Review

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Golden Notes for Preventive and Social Medicine-II

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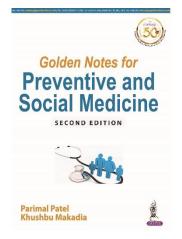
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A marvellous effort for the learners of community medicine by young authors Dr. Parimal Patel and Dr. Khushbu Makadia of the book, "Golden notes for preventive and social medicine (PSM) 2nd edition". This is another significant publication amongst the fraternity of community medicine from the reputed publication house of Jaypee after the official release of IAPSM textbook 1st and 2nd edition.

The second edition of golden notes is a great tool at the hands of an avid young learner of the subject both at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. At the outset, the authors have compiled the various competencies of the subject as per the new CISP curriculum along with referring chapter with topics for faculties. The content section of the book has been divided into sixteen sections with vivid descriptions of the subsection, point wise, for quick reference. In total, sixteen major sections of the book are distributed keeping in mind the essential preparatory revision requirements of an examinee in the shortest possible time. Particularly, the subsection of "Differences between important public health terms", a viva favourite for an examiner, is exhaustive and exclusive in nature. Another section, titled "Public health legislation in India" by the Government of India is also a unique compilation of all legislation/acts of public health importance in one place with sufficient information at a glance. Chapter on, "e-health" pertains to technological advancements to various programs being implemented by government.

Recently, launched programs like the National viral hepatitis control program (NVHCP) and newer initiatives like SUMAN, SAANS have also been incorporated under the section of recent updates of health programs. The miscellaneous section of the book pertains to various vital topics which had been asked by experts at various platforms of examination, but scarce detailing at one consolidated place. The "Imagica" section of the book had also been elaborated with 76 images with details, similar to the previous edition, but authors had missed the opportunity to insert colourful images with enhanced

image quality for improved memorization and retention. "Recent updates" section had been aptly updated with a dedicated chapter on COVID-19 pandemic comprising relevant mention of R_0 , doubling of cases and herd immunity, but lacking the finer conceptual details for elaborative understanding of such topics. Inclusion of International health regulations (IHR), public health emergency of International concern (PHEIC) and discussion of the SIER model in the chapter would have further served the objective more appropriately. "Annexures" section had also been extended in comparison to the previous edition, specifically the "ACRONYM annexure" which would be of great help to all, who are preparing the subject for academic or competitive purposes.

The content of the book is presented in a specific and precise manner just like self-inscribed handmade notes. Topics are essentially covered by authors in a readerfriendly manner with suitable referencing. An effort has been made to incorporate all the important competencies (with horizontal and vertical integration) as per the new UG curriculum for MBBS. At the same time, there are minor errors in mentioning the chapter and page number regarding the references of various competencies. The font size of the text is visible fairly, but the bullet point presentation of topics enhances the skills and competencies of the students for longer periods of retention and reproducibility during the examination. As compared to the first edition, the volume of the book has increased, but it is the need of the hour to incorporate newer topics. Though, not a substitute for the standard reference books, this edition is very good for retention and quick revision during the final MBBS and MD exams. It is an all in one book for other allied disciplines like Ayurveda, dental, paramedical and nursing. The easy affordability of the book on the price component is also an attractive one and indeed helpful particularly to, students of public health.

To conclude, the book, "Golden notes for preventive and social medicine- 2nd edition" would serve as an

exceptionally supportive and referencing tool during the vital and golden days of the final preparation. Over the period, the book would evolve as a comprehensive and compact ready reckoner compilation for students cum experts of community medicine, MPH and other fraternities. Just like "Oxford English mini dictionary" which has a compilation of all the words in English vocabulary, this book also contains all the important topics of public health with simple, concise and up to date description. The title of the book "Golden notes for PSM" is a fair justification of the content provided to readers.

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