

Learning medicine through a social justice lens

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By Roberto Morejón

The adverse economic situation in Cuba has an impact on public health, as in other spheres, but the medical education system continues, in spite of material restrictions, so an important graduation is expected.

The participation of tens of thousands of medical students in supporting the fight against Covid-19 is still very recent.

Walking through the communities with the maximum possible precautions, the young people thus confirmed the integral approach of local medicine and its commitment to primary care.

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The professors combine highly rigorous classes with demanding student evaluations, both in the classroom and in hospital-schools, in contact with the sick.

As experts explain, young people are taught that upon graduation they should not only study the symptoms of those who come to them, but also understand the context in which they operate.

Despite the U.S. blockade, the penalties imposed on Cuba due to its inclusion in the list of countries that, according to Washington, sponsor terrorism, the footprint of the pandemic and the acute shortage of foreign currency, the Caribbean nation has not closed classrooms to teach medicine.

Nor has it cut its collaboration with countries with deficient health services, a gesture that, nevertheless, the U.S. government distorts and uses to impose the aggravation that professionals in white coats are enslaved here.

Right now, more than 200 young Palestinians are studying medicine in Cuban provinces, whose only commitment is to take advantage of this opportunity and later serve in the territories where they come from.

The next batch of doctors in Cuba will bring strength to the domestic services, today affected by accentuated shortages of supplies, a limitation that, as usual, they will try to overcome by appealing to their wealth of good practices.

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