Original Research Paper

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Perceptions of Medical Students Regarding Different Issues of Medical Education.a Cross Sectional Study of A Medical College , Kokata

Medical Science

KEYWORDS : Career choice, Specialisation, Medical students

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND--- *Medical education is the science to make a good doctor.Undergraduate students enter into the course with different number of socio economic and educational background.*

OBJECTIVE- *To study the perceptions regarding different perspectives about medical profession and future inclination regarding career among study population*

METHODOLOGY-*A cross sectional study was undertaken in Calcutta National Medical College comprising 438 medical students from all five years of the MBBS course. Stratified random sampling was used for selection of study populations. Pre tested & pre designed self-responding questionnaire were distributed among study population. Socio demographic factors and different perspective of medical education like reason for choosing the career ,preference for stream and future career were studied .Data were analysed in Microsoft excel and SPSS 18*

RESULTS---- *Total 83% students had chosen the profession of their own free will while 17% chose it forcefully.*
41% 29,%17,%,3%, of medical students wished to specialise in medicine, surgery ,gynaecology and paediatrics whereas 2.1 % of students wanted to specialize in public health.39.81% of the study population responded that they would choose a career in private service as a profession, while 35.49% and 12.04% said they would Govt service and medical teaching as their future career options. That there were statistically significant difference in number of male and female and urban and rural study population regarding problem faced due to huge syllabus ,poor library facility and others problem faced by students like language problem ,non interesting classes etc.

CONCLUSION *An inclination towards some particular subjects was noticed among majority of the study population. ./Some students come this profession by force so aptitude test and career counseling should be arranged in school level.*

INTRODUCTION-----

Medical education intends to develop future doctor in our country.

Many subjects and related skills are incorporated in the course curriculum.

MBBS students enter into the course with different number of socio economic and educational background.[1]

Diverse factors influence medical students' choice of career. Factors that suggest to play an important role include lifestyle preferences, prestige, preclinical and clinical experiences and role models.[3] [4]

According to present trend medical students usually do PG after the MBBS course, but it also varies with socioeconomic condition and capability of the students. [2]

In this background this study is intended to reveal the factors influencing perception of the students regarding different perspectives of Medical Education and their future inclination.

OBJECTI VES---

1. To study the perceptions regarding different perspectives about medical profession among medical students.

2. To study the future inclination regarding career among study populations.

3. To assess the association between sociodemographic factors and perception of different problems faced by study population.(if any)

Methodology---

The present study was observational and cross sectional, undertaken in Calcutta National Medical College comprising 438 medical students from all five years of the MBBS course. Study was done during February, March of 2016. Stratified random sampling was used for selection of study populations. Permission was taken from institutional ethics committee. The student who was given informed consent was included in the study population.

Pre tested & pre designed self-responding questionnaire were distributed among study population. The anonymity and confidentiality was assured and the questionnaire was collected after due completion.

Sociodemographic factors and different perspective of medical education like reason for choosing the career ,preference for stream and future career were studied .The association of sociodemographic factors and perception of different problems during the course were assesed.

Data were analysed in Microsoft excel and presented by Percentage and proportion with chi square test. SPSS 18 was used for statistical analysis.

RESULTS-------- Among the study population 48.15% were male and 51.85% were female respondents and 33% were from rural area. (Table 1)

Total 83% students had chosen the profession of their own free will while 17% chose it forcefully.

41.06% of family members of study population were in the medical profession (table1)

From Table 2 it was seen that 41%, 29%, 17%, 3%, of medical students wished to specialise in medicine, surgery ,gynaecology and paediatrics. Respectively.Only2.1 % of students wanted to specialize in public health.

39.81% responded that they would choose a career in private sector as a profession, while 35.49% and 12.04% said they would pursue Govt health service and medical teaching as their future

career options respectively.(table 3)

49.37% of male and 37.69% of female study population pointed out huge syllabus of the MBBS course while 44.8% of male and 49.23% of female students faced problems like language problem, non interesting classes (table 4)

It was seen from table 4 that there were statistically significant difference in number of male and female students were observed in the present study regarding problem faced due to huge syllabus ,poor library facility and others problem faced by students like language problem ,non interesting classes etc. (p=0.041)

It was also revealed from table 4 that 28.90% of urban and 47.44 % of rural study population faced problems like language problem, non interesting classes. Significant statistical association also seen in between urban and rural study population regarding above problems.(p=0.0007)

DISCUSSION------

Present study revealed that medical students come from different socio demographic and economic condition.

As medical profession is considered prestigious in our society, sometimes there is a pressure from family also for choosing the profession even against their own will. Our study reveals that total 83% of students had chosen the profession of their own free will while 17% chose it forcefully. It was observed in Pakistan study that (66%) students chose it of their own free choice[5]. Our study shows that41.06% of family members of study population was in the medical profession whereas in Pakistan study 65% respondents had someone in their immediate family (parents, siblings or uncle) in the profession.[5]

While doing MBBS course students found post graduate degree is very much essential for their establishment. Accordingly they prefer different subjects and this preference may be influenced by their socio demographic background, presence of medical professional in their family etc.

In our study it was seen that 41% 29%, 17% and 3% of medical students wished to specialise in medicine, surgery, gynaecology and paediatrics.Only2.1 % of students wanted to specialize in public health .These study findings almost corroborates the study findings of Pakistan study where 38%,31% ,13% and 4.5% wanted to specialize in Surgery, Medicine Gynaecology and Obstetrics, and Paediatrics, Public Health respectively. Saad SM,et al had shown in their studies that the majority of medical students chose Medicine because of their own preference. However, 87% students felt that their family had a direct influence in selection of career.[6]

Sobral DT showed in his study that a change in career options of students during their medical schools from preclinical to clinical years.[7]

Khan H, ETAL reported that the medicine was the top choice for career options which corroborated our study findings .[8]

Deedar-Ali-Khawaja R, Khan SM. had shown in their study that interest in Surgery has declined in developed countries like US, UK, Australia, Switzerland, as medical students prefer non-Surgical careers, [9]

In our study very few students had shown interest in the field of Public Health which is almost similar in findings of study of Coker RE et al.

Public Health is still neglected in medical students as they are unaware of its significance.

In our study 39.81% responded that they would choose a career in private sector while 35.49% and 12.04% said they would pursue Govt health service and medical teaching as their future career option.

Due to large syllabus and huge pressure of this stream students are generally stressed out.

It was observed in the present study that there were statistically significant difference in number of male and female students regarding problem faced due to huge syllabus ,poor library facility and others problems like language problem ,non interesting classes etc.

Significant statistical association is also seen between urban and rural study population regarding this issues .We hardly found any published study regarding this issue.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

An inclination towards some particular subjects was noticed among majority of the study population.. This inclination may be due to certain factors and contrary their own aptitude. This issue would be addressed by proper career counseling .Some students come this profession by force so aptitude test and career counseling should be arranged in school level. However the study has been conducted in small sample consisting of students from a single medical college so further study is required for generalisation of the findings..

TABLES--------

Tables 1.Socio demographic profile (n=438)

SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS	Number(%)
GENDER	
Male	308(70.31%)
Female	130(29.68%)
RESIDENCE	
Urban	301(68.72%)
Rural	137(31.28%)
RELIGION	
Hindu	314(71.68%)
Muslim	124(28.31%)
PRESENCE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL IN FAMILY	
Present	179(41.6%)
Absent	259(58.40%)
SELECTION OF MEDICAL PROFESSION	
Own choice	354(83%)
Force fully	74(17%)

TABLE 2-DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY POPULATION ACCORDING TO SUBJECTS PREFFERED MOST FOR FUTURE POSTGRADUATION(N=438)

	NUMBER(%)
MEDICINE	179(41%)
SURGERY	127(29%)
GYNAE AND OBS	75(17%)
PAEDIATRICS	13(3%)
PUBLIC HEALTH	9(2.1%)

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TABLE 3-----DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY POPULATION ACCORDING TO KIND OF SERVICE THEY WANT TO DO IN FUTURE (n=432)

KIND OF SERVICE	Number
PVT.HEALTH SERVICE	172(39.81%)
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE	152(35.49%)
MEDICAL AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	48(11.11%)
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	8 (1.85%)
TEACHING	52 (12.04%)

No response=6

TABLE 4 Distribution of study population according to sociodemographic profile and different problems faced by students

socio demographic profile	Different problems faced by students			statistical test
GENDER	Huge syllabus	Poor library facility	Problem faced by students(like barrier of communication, classes are not interesting	
Male(n=308)	149(48.37%)	22(7.14%)	137(44.48%)	X^{2}=6.37(df=2) p=0.041
Female(n=130)	49(37.69%)	17(13.07%)	64(49.23%)	
RESIDENCE				X^{2}=14.42(df=2) p=0.00073
Urban(n=301)	177(58.80%)	37(12.29%)	87(28.90%)	
Rural(n=137)	61(44.52%)	11(8.02%)	65(47.44%)	

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