



CAREER PROFILE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE ALUMNI OF A PREMIER TEACHING COLLEGE OF MUMBAI.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Diverse Factors influence medical student's choice of eventual careers. Community Medicine is one of the specialities taken up at various hospitals by a number of doctors. This study was planned to review the career opportunities taken by doctors who passed MD Community Medicine or Diploma in Public Health from a premier teaching college located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Results: 163 students were enrolled since 2009 of which 53 were currently pursuing either MD/DPH course. Data was collected for this study in the months of September 2017 to November 2017. The career profile were grouped as Academics in MCGM, Academics in State government colleges, Public health in MCGM, state, centre, etc.

Most pursued current careers were Speciality Medical Officer (bond post) in MCGM colleges (16), Academic positions in State government colleges (16), public health positions in Maharashtra state government (13) and public health in MCGM (11). Very few candidates were currently working in international or national institutions.

Conclusion: This study shows that Academics and Public Health still are the major career prospects for doctors who have done MD/DPH. It could be seen that very few opted for other career options like Preventive Oncology, Health Management or Research institutes. This study recommends better maintenance of records of alumni for future contacts and career counselling for post graduate students.

KEYWORDS : Community Medicine, Career profile

Introduction:

Diverse Factors influence medical student's choice of eventual careers. It has been suggested that an understanding of factors that influence career decisions may help in workforce planning and avoid over or under-supply of doctors. (1) Community Medicine is one of the specialities taken up at various hospitals by a number of doctors. A doctor who has passed MD in Community Medicine knows about Reproductive & Child Health, Occupation Health, Health Management & Administration, Disease Epidemiology, Teaching and Technology, Health Policy, Immunization, Nutrition science, Conducting Research, etc. In fact Community Medicine Specialists have been labelled as "Jack of all Trades." (2) This study was planned to review the career opportunities taken by doctors who passed MD Community Medicine or Diploma in Public Health from Seth G. S. Medical College, which is a reputed medical college located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Objectives:

- To review present and past career designations held by MD and DPH alumni of teaching college included in this study.
- To summarize the career profiles selected by alumni of teaching college under study and give recommendations.

Methodology:

The data required for this study was collected from alumni of Department of Community Medicine, Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai, which is one of the four medical colleges run by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). All candidates who were enrolled in this department from year 2009 onwards were considered for this study. Doctors enrolled both for MD (Doctor of Medicine) in Community Medicine and DPH (Diploma in Public Health) were considered for this study.

The data was collected between September 2017 and November 2017. The alumni were contacted via mobile or email on the basis of their records available in the Department. It included their personal details like phone number, email and addresses. Further they were asked regarding all posts and institutions where they have worked

after passing their MD/DPH. The current post/designation was separately entered in the case record form.

The information obtained was entered in and was analysed and summarized using Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet.

Results and Discussion:

A total of 163 doctors took up MD/DPH in Community Medicine at this institute during the study period. (2009-2017)

Table 1: Gender wise and Course wise distribution

Name of Course	Female	Male	Total
MD Comm. Med.	67	82	149
DPH	5	9	14
Total	72	91	163

Out of these 163 people, 51 doctors were currently pursuing their MD and 2 were pursuing their DPH course. As they are currently enrolled in the Post-graduate degree/diploma course, their career choices cannot be assessed on present date. So after removing 53 doctors the effective sample for this study was 110 (98 with MD Community Medicine and 12 having done DPH.)

Table 2: Career Profile Analysis of Alumni who have completed DPH

Career Profile	Currently Appointed in this field	Previously Working in this field
Public Health, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM)	2	2
Public Health, Maharashtra Government	7	0
Non-Governmental Organizations	0	1

Table 2 shows career positions held by alumni who have passed DPH from institute included in this study. Since details of every one could not be obtained, hence the total may not correspond to total mentioned in previous tables.

It can be observed that most DPH candidates have taken up job with the Public Health Department of Maharashtra Government. This included positions like Medical Officer at PHC level, Taluka Medical Officers at Block level and Medical officers in Leprosy office. Few candidates were working with Public Health Department of MCGM on designations like Assistant Medical Officer in Municipal Hospitals.

Table 3: Career Profile Analysis of Alumni who have completed MD Community Medicine

Career Profile	Currently Appointed in this field	Previously Working in this field
Speciality Medical Officer (SMO)	16	4
Academics in MCGM	3	1
Academics in State Government/elsewhere	16	16
Public Health, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM)	11	12
Public Health, Maharashtra Government	13	7
Public Health, Central Level	1	0
Non-Governmental Organizations	1	2
Defence Medical Services	3	0
World Health Organization	1	4
Others	5	4

As all candidates could not be contacted, the total number may not match with Table 1. As shown in Table 3, 16 candidates were found to be working as Speciality Medical Officers (SMO) in MCGM (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai) run colleges. SMO is a special post created in MCGM run teaching colleges for bonded candidates to complete their 1 year post MD mandatory bond. As the bond completion is mandatory hence many people from 2013 and 2014 batch are found to be working as Speciality Medical Officers.

It was found that only 3 people were currently working in Academics in MCGM on posts other than Speciality Medical Officer. This finding is surprising as candidates passed out from a MCGM run college were not found to be working in the same or sister institutes. This may be due to the fact that study period included only candidates who have passed MD in past 8 years.

A large proportion (16) of candidates was working as Assistant Professor in Academics in state run medical colleges. Many of the alumni served their post-MD bond as Assistant Professor in state run colleges. Hence, it was observed that 16 people said that they held a post in Academics in Maharashtra state colleges sometime during their career.

A large number is seen to be currently working in Public Health departments of either MCGM (11) or Maharashtra State Government (13). This includes working as Asst Medical Officers, Medical Officers in District TB Cells, Leprosy offices, Medical Officers in PHC, Casualty Medical Officer in hospitals, etc. Only one of the alumni is currently working at Public Health at Central level i.e. the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

Few candidates were working or had worked in NGOs and International Organization like W.H.O. (World Health Organizations). Three candidates were working in defence medical services.

5 candidates were working in other jobs and 4 others had previously held other jobs. These included positions like Senior Resident in Preventive Oncology, Scientist positions in National Research Institutes, etc.

In an article in a reputed journal related to Community Medicine, it was suggested that we need to have Skill-based Public Health Training. (3) To develop such a curriculum it is important to review what careers are taken up by Community Medicine experts. Such a

review will help us decide as to what kind of skills can be or should be included in curriculum of MD/DPH course.

In another article related to public health it has been focussed that numerous health professionals are working in International and National Public Health agencies like MOHFW, NICD, WHO, UNICEF, etc. (4) However, in this article majority of people working in public health were found to be working with local body i.e. MCGM or with the State government. This may be due to the fact that most health professionals during early years of their career gather experience at lower levels and then switch over to national and international bodies.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

This study shows that Academics and Public Health still are the major career prospects for doctors who have done MD/DPH. It could be seen that very few opted for other career options like Preventive Oncology, Health Management or Research institutes.

However, there are limitations to this study because data was considered only for past 8 years, hence this is just a contemporary representation and not a complete representation of the career opportunities for MD/DPH candidates.

The recommendations on the basis of this study are that firstly, data of the alumni must be maintained in a systematic manner (as here many could not be contacted). Career Counselling sessions for post graduates by experts of the field and also by alumni of teaching institutes working in different fields can help the post-graduate students decide a better future for them. Further, such studies can be repeated at larger level like all colleges of Mumbai or of Maharashtra and over a larger period to get a better understanding of career prospects in Community Medicine.

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