



A STUDY TO SCALE PERCEPTION OF AETCOM ATTRIBUTES AND MBBS FOUNDATION COURSE IN FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

Community Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Medical Council of India has proposed new teaching learning approaches aimed at developing knowledge, skills and attitudes required for a medical professional including a structured longitudinal programme on attitude, ethics and communication (AETCOM). Objectives: 1. To score the perception of various attributes of AETCOM and MBBS foundation course in first year medical students. 2. To assess the extent of understanding and practical application of the AETCOM modules and MBBS Foundation course topics in first year medical students. **Material & Method:** Descriptive cross sectional study, conducted in GMC, Kannauj. In this study, questionnaire was made and the questionnaire was uploaded on Google forms. **Result:** Majority (72.2%) of the students had well understanding of the module. 45.1% students rated more than 90% likeliness to music after music guided meditation and yoga, meditation, sports were favourite choice of nearly (71.6%) students. **Conclusion:** This study concludes that students had a good experience with the AETCOM and the foundation course. Most of the students were able to retain the teachings of the 5 modules of AETCOM.

KEYWORDS

AETCOM, MBBS, IMG, NMC

INTRODUCTION

The overall goal of undergraduate medical education program is to create an "Indian Medical Graduate" (IMG) possessing requisite knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and responsiveness, so that she or he may function appropriately and effectively as a physician of first contact of the community while being globally relevant. In order to ensure that training is in alignment with the goals and competencies, Medical Council of India has proposed new teaching learning approaches aimed at developing knowledge, skills and attitudes required for a medical professional including a structured longitudinal programme on attitude, ethics and communication (AETCOM)¹. The entire concept of AETCOM module lies on the fundamental principle that changing a person's attitude can change his or her behavior. The Cognitive components of attitudes are more fundamental and constant over time and more closely connected to basic values. Behavioral attitudes are manifestations of underlying cognitive and affective attitudes.

Likewise the objective of foundation course is to facilitate institutions and faculty in implementing a course of one-month duration at the beginning of the MBBS course that will sensitize the fresh medical student with the required knowledge and skills that will assist him/her in acclimatizing to the new professional environment (Medical Council of India.2019)². Our purpose to conduct this study was to find any possibility whatsoever that could be utilized in designing an ideal grooming module for the medical professionals in view of the fact that Indian doctors are one of the major world health care stakeholders and should make out their best in the five years of their undergraduate curriculum in all ways possible thus make them domestically relevant and a cosmopolitan.

AIMANDOBJECTIVE

- To score the perception of various attributes of AETCOM and MBBS foundation course in first year medical students.
- To assess the extent of understanding and practical application of the AETCOM modules and MBBS Foundation course topics in first year medical students.

MATERIALANDMETHOD

Research setting- The study was conducted in the Government Medical College, Kannauj

Study design: Descriptive cross sectional study

Study population - First year medical students (n=100) were enrolled for the study.

Inclusion criteria: First year medical students who have regularly attended ($\geq 85\%$ attendance) MBBS foundation course of 1 month.

Exclusion criteria: Subjects having $<85\%$ attendance in MBBS foundation course.

Statistical analysis – done by SPSS trail version 23 software.

Methodology:

In this study, questionnaire was made regarding the 5 modules of AETCOM and the qualitative feedback of these 5 modules of AETCOM, which were taught theoretically as well as practically were taken. The 5 modules were:

1. What does it mean to be a doctor?
2. What does it mean to be a patient?
3. The doctor patient relationship
4. The foundation of communication
5. The cadaver as our first teacher

The questionnaire was uploaded on Google forms. The link to the form was shared on personal electronic devices of each subject. Each subject responded to the questions in complete seclusion via their personal electronic devices. The responses were automatically presented by Google forms in the form of pie charts and bar graphs. These pie charts were then critically analyzed manually to record crux of the responses by the students.

Ethical issue-

1. ICMR approved STS (short term student) study - (approval no. 2010380)
2. Approval from institutional ethical committee was taken (Review Letter no. IEC/GMC- 04)
3. Informed consent taken from the respondents
4. Permission from the principal of GMC, Kannauj was obtained

RESULTS

- From the section 1st of the questionnaire following results were recorded.
- For Module 1 (What does it mean to be a doctor?)- Majority

(72.2%) of the students had well understanding of the module (Fig 1).

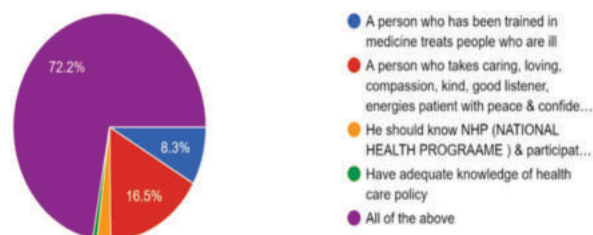


Figure 1- Response to the question – what do you understand by term doctor?

Module 2 (What does it mean to be a patient?)- Majority (63.6%) felt that there was some duties of patients towards doctors (faith in clinician and agreement to undergo prescribed therapy, to follow doctors instruction diligently, to respect autonomy of doctors and nurses, to preserve all record of illness, inform the doctor if a patient wants to change hospital/ doctor) (Fig 2)

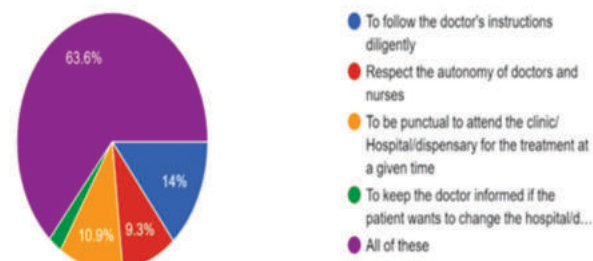


Figure 2- Response to the question –patient's responsibility towards doctor?

Module 3 (The Doctor Patient relationship?) - (41.6%) felt that hospital management is not good and (40.8%) students felt that there is high patient load in government funded hospital, which might be the reason for poor doctor patient relationship (Fig 3).

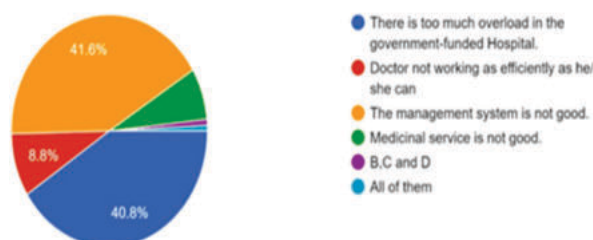


Figure 3: Response to the question – what do you think as patient lacking in the India health care system?

Module 4 (The foundation of Communication)- 68.5% students are in favor of adding local language course in the curriculum, because everyone comes from different regions and have different native languages. They felt that language course will help in betterment of patient doctor relationship.(Fig 4)

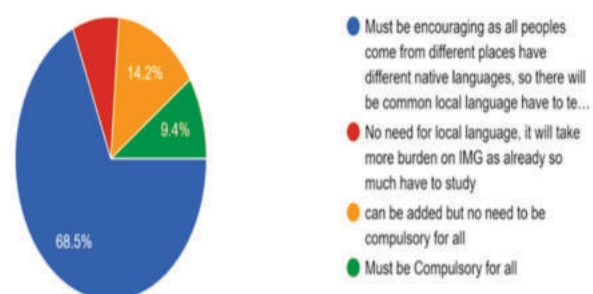


Figure 4: Response to the question – is it necessary for the local language should be added in foundation course & AETCOM?

- Module 5 (The Cadaver as our first teacher)- Majority (94.5%) students understood the cadaveric oath (fig 5).

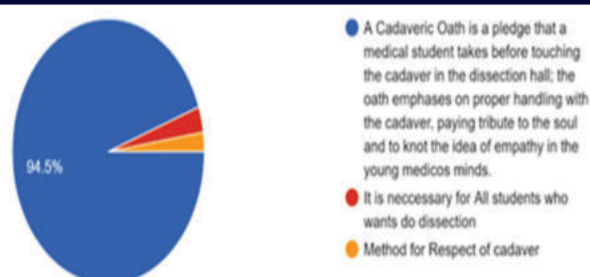


Figure 5: Response to the question – what do you understand by cadaveric oath?

DISCUSSION

In this study we concluded that, students were able to understand and retain most of the discussed topics in the 5 modules of the AETCOM. Most students are in the favor of AETCOM, because they felt that it improved their lifestyle, learning abilities and overall personality as an IMG. (Kumar S, 2019)³ discussed about the Implementation of new curriculum in UG (MBBS): A dream project of medical education technology. In our institute, AETCOM was taught theoretically as well as practically. Dual faceted experience of the course might have predisposed to responses of students in favor of the course. Similar results were also found by (Ghosh & Bir, 2021)⁴ in their study, but they conducted this study among faculties. They found that (60%) faculty thought that AETCOM is helpful for the students, and the assessment of AETCOM must be done preferably via a practical approach. Their study lacked the feedback from students, which was fulfilled by our study. Both students from our study and faculty from study seem to agree over benefits of AETCOM on an IMG. Majority (68.5%) students felt that a parallel course on local language must be included in the module 4 of the AETCOM course, because medical students come from regions of different local languages, which might hinder their communication with the patient. Thus, to improve the communication with the patient, a course on local language must be included.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that students had a good experience with the AETCOM and the foundation course. Most of the students were able to retain the teachings of the 5 modules of AETCOM. Students felt that 1st year AETCOM modules are apt for improving the lifestyle of Indian Medical Graduates. It helped in improving the mental and physical health of students besides improving their skills. The foundation course aided students in developing new hobbies if they had none previously. In general, students preferred music-guided meditation and sports to improve their mental and physical health. This demonstrates their concern for their health. They were also able to gain skills for managing their personal and professional life as a result of the foundation course. Students' preference for more hospital visits reflected their preference for hands-on learning.

Because today's youth is already quite familiar with the basic functioning and conveniences of digital devices, many students resented the sessions held to teach basic computer skills. Students also suggested that a session on teaching the local language be included, since this would help them build stronger relationships with the local patients.

As a result, this questionnaire-based survey gave us a greater understanding of how students felt about the foundation course. Eventually, the foundation course and the AETCOM are both beneficial to students. If the students' comments are taken into account, the course could be improved to benefit future medics. Furthermore, because this study only included feedback from students at a single institute, additional studies in other parts of the country are needed to enhance our data and previously collected data. More research will aid in making better decisions.

Limitations

The main limitation of this study was that, we have taken the feedback of only students from our medical college. So this study must be elaborated on a larger sample size, in different corners of the country to gain a better perspective on how the students perceived the foundation course.

Source of support- No
Conflict of Interest- No

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