

Original article:

Motivation and preparedness of phase I MBBS students before entering course and their experience after completion of phase I MBBS

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Abstract

Background: Students enter the medical profession they experiences a variety of emotional reactions, mixed feelings and views during phase I MBBS. The aims and objectives of the present study is to observe the motivation and preparedness of phase I MBBS students before entering the course and their experience after completion of phase I MBBS. The present study was conducted to explore further insights into these areas in Karnataka students.

Materials and method: Medical students taken admission for the 1st phase MBBS 2014-15 Batch, VIMS, Ballari, Karnataka, India were included as volunteers in the present study. The study was double blind folded survey. The volunteers were handed a written questionnaire sheet. The questionnaire was anonymous and self administered. The data collected and descriptive analysis was done statistically.

Results: 100 volunteers of Phase I MBBS students submitted completed questionnaires. 81% students got admission after 1st attempts; 55% students decided on a medical career during college. Accurate knowledge about the curriculum was poor. 89% were encouraged to take up medicine. 56% undergone career preparation activity.

Conclusion: In our study students decided themselves and are highly motivated by school teachers to join the medical profession and they like to encourage the juniors to take MBBS course and would like to do rural service and they wish to work under government sector. Students found difficulty to learn subject properly due to short duration of phase I MBBS .

Keywords: Phase I MBBS, Motivation, preparedness, Teaching, Students

Introduction

The transition from preuniversity course(12th class) to Phase I MBBS may be difficult for students because of the vast syllabus with short duration of Phase I MBBS course. Now a days medical students differ in terms of age, culture, ethnicity, level of preparedness and motivation. Several students are eager to pursue the MBBS course. Students enthusiasm towards medical profession is influenced by instructors. The medical profession is considered to be both satisfying and lucrative, drawing the best students to its ranks every year.¹ Many of the students have

unrealistic perception of the medical curriculum before entering into the profession and of medical practice after completion of medical course.² When students enter the medical profession they experiences a variety of emotional reactions, mixed feelings and views during phase I MBBS.

The aims and objectives of the present study is to observe the motivation and preparedness of phase I MBBS students before entering the course and their experience after completion of phase I MBBS. The present study was conducted to explore further insights into these areas in Karnataka students.

Materials and methods

Medical students taken admission for the 1st phase MBBS 2014-15 Batch, VIMS, Ballari, Karnataka, India were included as volunteers in the present study. The study was double blind folded survey. The volunteers were handed a written questionnaire sheet. The questionnaire was anonymous and self administered. The data collected and descriptive analysis was done statistically.

Results

100 volunteers of Phase 1 MBBS students 2014-2015 batch of Vims, Ballari, Karnataka, India, filled all the questionnaires which were given to them (as shown in the annexure).The study results are shown in the following tables.

1.Number of attempts of entrance exam taken for medical seat(percentage)	
One	81
Two	15
More than two	4
2. When did you first decide to choose a health-related career(percentage)	
During school	45
During college	55
3. Do any of the family members are in health-related profession(percentage)	
Yes	38
No	62
4.Have you been influenced by any one to enter into the medical profession(percentage)	
Yes	48
No	52
5.Have you ever influenced by visiting a medical college earlier(percentage)	
Yes	40
No	60
6. Have you been encouraged or discouraged from choosing a medical(percentage)	
Encouraged	89
Discouraged	11
7. If encouraged would you like to thank them(percentage)	

Yes	76	
No	24	
8. Have you taken career advice(percentage)		
Doctors or other health professionals	20	
Medical students	20	
Counsellors	16	
School teachers	44	
9. Had any information regarding MBBS academics (percentage)		
	Yes	No
A. Duration of course	56	29
B. About internals and exams.	30	
C. Pre-clinical subjects / Para-clinical subjects / Clinical subject.	20	
D. Purpose of internship	23	
E. Compulsory rural service	23	
10. Have you taken coaching for medical entrance exams(percentage)		
Yes	56	
No	44	
11. Would you like to give suggestions to your juniors who are willing to join medical course. (percentage)		
Yes	73	
No	27	
12. What is your experience at end of PhaseI(percentage)		
GOOD	51	
VERY GOOD	17	
EXCELLENT	12	
SATISFACTORY	19	
13. Did you like the question paper pattern having all questions compulsory in exams(percentage)		
Yes	58	
No	42	
14. Would you like to do rural service(percentage)		
Yes	70	
No	30	
15. Where do you like to work after completion of your studies(percentage)		
Government sector	72	
Private sector	28	
16. Did you felt that Phase I MBBS course duration was too short for giving annual exam?		

(percentage)	
Yes	77
No	23
17. What pattern of studies do you like(percentage)	
Single Discussion	44
Group Discussion	56
18. Do you find time for extracurricular activities(percentage)	
Yes	36
No	64
19. Which is your favourite subject in Phase I MBBS(percentage)	
ANATOMY	55
BIOCHEMISTRY	11
PHYSIOLOGY	34
20. Preferred teaching pattern by teachers(percentage)	
Chalk and Board	72
Power Point	26
OHP	2

ANNEXURE

MOTIVATION AND PREPAREDNESS OF PHASE I MBBS STUDENTS AND THEIR EXPERIENCE AFTER COMPLETION OF PHASE I.

PROFORMA

Medical Student Survey

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about motivation and preparedness of Phase I MBBS students and their experience after completion of Phase I.

Your responses will be kept completely confidential.

Your age :

Gender : male / female

Please indicate the correct response by putting a tick mark

1. Number of attempts of entrance exam taken for medical seat: One / Two / More than two

2. When did you first decide to choose a health-related career?

During school / During college

3. Do any of the family members are in health-related profession?

YES/ NO

If yes. Put a tick mark on all that applies.

Occupation	Father	Mother	Siblings	Grandparents	cousin(s) and Others
Doctor					
Hospital administration					
Nursing					
Pharmaceuticals					

4. Have you been influenced by any one to enter into the medical profession? YES / NO

5. Have you ever influenced by visiting a medical college earlier? YES / NO

6. Have you been encouraged or discouraged from choosing a medical career? Encouraged / Discouraged

7. If encouraged would you like to thank them. YES/ NO

Reason? _____

8. Have you taken career advice?

Doctors or other health professionals/ Medical students / Counsellors / School teachers

9. Had any information regarding MBBS academics? YES/ NO.

If yes please tick

A. Duration of course.

B. About internals and exams.

C. Pre-clinical subjects / Para-clinical subjects / Clinical subjects

D. Purpose of internship

E. Compulsory rural service

10. Have you taken coaching for medical entrance exam? YES / NO

11. Would you like to give suggestions to your juniors who are willing to join medical course. YES / NO.

If Yes why? _____

If No why? _____

12. What is your experience at end of Phase I. GOOD / VERY GOOD/ EXCELLENT/
SATISFACTORY

13. Did you like the question paper pattern having all questions compulsory? YES / NO.

14. Would you like to do rural service? YES/ NO

15. Where do you like to work after completion of your studies?

Government sector / Private sector

16. Did you felt that Phase I MBBS course duration was too short for giving annual exam? YES/ NO

Kindly suggest the 12months/ 18 months.

17. What pattern of studies do you like? Single / Group Discussion.

18. Do you find time for extracurricular activities? YES/ NO

19. Which is your favourite subject in Phase I MBBS?

ANATOMY/ BIOCHEMISTRY/PHYSIOLOGY

20. Preferred teaching pattern by teachers. Chalk and Board / Power Point / OHP

Signature of the student

Discussion

The study conducted on 100 volunteers in that 56 boys, 44 girls of phase 1 MBBS students 2014 -15 batch.

The main objective of the present study is to determine the level of motivation of new medical students for a career in medicine. About 81% of the students were highly motivated to enter the medical profession in first attempt, 15 %

in the second attempt and 4% had appeared in the admission test more often than that. 56% students had taken coaching for medical entrance exam. This is a good sign since the profession is highly demanding intellectually, physically, emotionally, and also in terms of time; thus, it needs high motivation³. Rhoads et al have also referred to motivation appearing to be the determining factor in medical school admissions and student performance⁴.

It was encouraging that nearly 62% students opted medical profession even though they did not had any of the family members in health-related profession, 38% of the students reported that they had relatives in the medical profession, suggesting at least a modicum of exposure to the kind of work involved in being a doctor. 48% of students were influenced to take up medicine; most often they were motivated by a parent or other family members confirming our belief that family is a very strong motivating force in India and should be utilized in career decisions.

Nearly 45% of our students had made up their minds on a career in medicine before class 10, where as 55% of the students decided to choose a health related career during their college. In a similar previous study, by Nilima et al nearly two-thirds of our students had made up their minds on a career in medicine before class 10⁵. Noble et al who investigated the factors influencing career choice of orthodontic residents in the United States, found that the career decision is often made early in life⁶. Out of 100 students of the present study about 40% were influenced by visiting a medical college earlier. 89% students were encouraged for choosing the medical profession. 50% of the students had taken career advice from their school teacher. 29% students did not had any information regarding MBBS academics, where remaining knew about the duration of course, about internals and exams, Pre-clinical subjects / Para-clinical subjects / Clinical subject, Purpose of internship, Compulsory rural service. 73% of students liked to give suggestions to their juniors who are willing to join medical course. Students experience at end of Phase I were as follows 51% good, 17% very good, 12% excellent, 19% satisfactory. 58% students liked the question paper pattern in exams having all questions compulsory. 70% students liked to do rural service.

72% students liked to work in government sector. 77% students felt that Phase I MBBS course duration was too short for giving annual exam. 56% students like to do group discussion for studies. Where as 44% students like to do single discussion for studies. 64% did not find time for extracurricular activities. Anatomy was favourite subject for 55% students, Physiology for 34% students and Biochemistry for 11% students. 72% of students Preferred Chalk and Board teaching pattern by teachers. In the study conducted by Nilima in 2013 concluded that the activities like shadowing a physician and working as volunteers in a health care setting may be a feasible and cost effective approach, to help students inform themselves about the course before joining it⁵. Certainly, no student should be 'encouraged' to make a career out of medicine unless completely certain of all that it entails. Perhaps students who make an informed choice will do better in the course^{5,7,8}.

Conclusion

The present study gives a subjective evaluation of motivation and preparedness of phase I MBBS students before entering the course and their experience after completion of phase I. In our study students decided themselves and are highly motivated by school teachers to join the medical profession and majority of students taken coaching for medical entrance exam.

Majority of the phase I MBBS students would like to encourage the juniors to take MBBS course and would like to do rural service and they wish to work under government sector. Students found difficulty to learn subject properly due to short duration of phase I MBBS.

They like group discussion rather than studying alone. Many students did not found time for extracurricular activities and nearly three fourth of students like chalk and board teaching than power point and OHP. Students perspectives have been sought earlier for several aspects of training and healthcare that resulted in subsequent policy changes.^{9,10}

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