

Original Research Article

A Qualitative Analytic Study of Phase 1 MBBS Students Regarding the Perceptions and Utility of Foundation Course in New Curriculum at Government Medical College, Patiala.

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Abstract:

Introduction:

Foundation course (FC) is first step in the competency based medical education in Phase I MBBS. The duration of the foundation course is 1 month. Since the implementation of foundation course it was observed that students and faculty had variable perspectives about the foundation course. This study provides the insight about the real versus reality of the student and teachers' perspective.

Aim:

To assess the students and faculty perception about the foundation course

Material and method:

Cross -sectional retrospective study on 200 Phase I MBBS students. Questionnaire was provided to the phase I MBBS students for their feedback on foundation course.

Results:

93% of students approved of the orientation and 90 % agree on the skill module of Foundation Course to be beneficial and felt it was necessary for them to be prepared for the medical college. 65 % agree for professional development and ethics module. 63% disagree of the sports activity and felt it should be optional. 69.5% felt that that duration of 1 month is too long and should be reduced to shorter duration. 92.5% students disagree of computer class due to longer duration.

Discussion:

Overall students showed positive feedback towards the foundation course. Foundation course helped students to get first exposure on management of medical emergencies through skill modules. However subjects like language and computer skills scored unfavorable remarks mainly due to longer duration and being less beneficial. This demands the flexibility of hours provided for these skills as it varies from region to region. Also students felt that teaching professionalism at this stage was too early while they are still rooting in the medical college.

Keywords:

Competency based medical education (CBME), Foundation course (FC)

Introduction

Since the introduction of competency based medical education (CBME) curriculum for MBBS program all over India from August 2019, foundation course is first step in the curriculum of the first phase

MBBS student.^[1] Foundation course (FC) helps first year MBBS student in metamorphosis from a school student to the medical student.^[2] The duration of the foundation course is 1 month in which the medical student is oriented and trained in AETCOM skills and

professional development.^[1] However, since the implementation of foundation course it was observed that the students and faculty both had variable perspectives about the ongoing process. This necessitated the need for qualitative study of introductory foundation course, real versus reality.

Aims and Objectives

To qualitatively assess the perceptions and utility of foundation course in first month of Phase I by First year MBBS students.

Methodology

Study Design : cross sectional retrospective study

Population : all first year MBBS students of Batch 2019 in GMC Patiala.

Sample Size: 200 First year MBBS students

Sampling Procedure:

Inclusion criteria: All first year MBBS students of 2019 batch attending foundation course in GMC Patiala.

Exclusion criteria: Students not attending the foundation course were excluded.

Data Collection: Questionnaire was provided to be filled by students for their feedback after six months of the successful completion of foundation course of Phase 1 MBBS students.

Analysis: Qualitative analysis was done.

Human Participation Protection: Consent was taken before filling of the questionnaire and questionnaire were provided and asked to be filled under complete anonymity.

Results

All 200 students of Phase I MBBS of 2019 Batch of Government Medical College Patiala provided their feedback through questionnaires after 6 months after the completion of their foundation course. The results were obtained by qualitative analysis of their feedback.

93 % of the students approve of the Foundation course to be beneficial for them and was a good initiative before the beginning of the competency based curriculum. 93% agreed that it helped them prepare for the medical college.

69.5 % of the students felt that the duration of one month was too long for the foundation course and it should be reduced to a shorter duration.

Qualitative analysis of the student feedback on various contents of the Foundation course was carried after 6 month duration in GMC Patiala is as follows.

Orientation

Orientation sessions were conducted in first week of foundation course. As per NMC module of the foundation course it is mandatory to conduct orientation in single block in first week of entry into medical college. The orientation is conducted on the elements specified in section 9.1.1 of the regulations on Graduate medical education. Following were the results on qualitative analysis.

93 % students agreed that there should be introduction to the Phase I faculty and orientation of Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry and SPM department. This helped them know their surroundings better.

93% students agree that the Hippocratic oath and White coat ceremony should be held as it gives them feeling of entering into medical college.

91.5% agree that interactive sessions on 'Expectation of society and patients from doctors' and 'Role of doctor as physician of first contact' were almost same. 77% of student agree that orientation of health care system and introduction to national program benefits them.

34.5% of the students felt that it was too early to tell them about the research methods and online research is little benefit to them at just beginning of MBBS.

Skill Modules (Basic)

These sessions emphasis on training the students of basics of life support, universal precautions, biomedical waste management and segregation of biomedical waste before they enter patient care areas.

90 % of the Phase I students approve of teaching Basic life support, Biomedical Waste

management, proper hand washing technique and universal precautions to be taught in foundation course.

47% felt computer interface skills and ethical skill to deal with patient's relatives were not necessary at this stage of MBBS course.

Field Visits

The field visits are arranged to acquaint the medical students of community health center and primary health center under the hospital so the students have an insight to the community needs, patients and their families, and get acquainted with health workers working in that area 90.5% Phase I students agreed of the family visits in Phase I and 80% agreed that visit to Urban Health center should be included as it motivated them to learn to serve community and understand community based learning.

9.5% felt that family visit in Phase I is waste of time.

Professional development including Ethics

This session is a foundation stone of concept of professionalism and ethics. In this session medical students are appraised of essential components of professionalism. In these sessions students were sensitized of professional attributes such as empathy, accountability, altruism, humanism and compassion. In these sessions students are also sensitized to the consequences of unprofessional behavior and unethical practices.

65% of the students agree that it's important to learn professionalism, communication and ethical skills in the beginning of the MBBS.

45% disagree of AETCOM classes as actual patient contact begins Phase 2 forward.

Sports and Extra-curricular activities

63% disagree with the long duration of sports activity as after the technical teaching of the foundation course after college hours they were free to indulge in sports and no teaching of medical subjects was going on.

Enhancement of Language

The language sessions helps students from diverse backgrounds to understand local language and communicate with patients. 92.5 % of the students agreed to benefit from the translation classes of the vernacular language. As almost all students of GMC Patiala were from Punjab, 93% students disagree with the long duration of classes and wanted the duration to be student specific and flexible.[4]

Computer Skills

The sessions on computer skills are aimed to sensitize medical students to know basic computer skills. Here 92.5% of the medical students disagree of the duration of computer classes. The classes were less beneficial as most of them were recall and repetition.

Discussion

Overall response of students towards the foundation course was a positive feedback towards the foundation course. It helped them orient towards the upcoming challenges in community and medical school.^[3] Also foundation course helped medical students to understand and gear up for the hands on management of medical emergencies through skill modules. However the non medical subject like language and computer skills scored unfavorable remarks mainly due to longer duration and being less beneficial as students were already well versed with such education.^[4] This demands the flexibility of hours provided for these subjects as it varies from region to region. Also students felt that teaching professionalism at this stage was too early while they are still rooting in the medical college.

Conflict of Interest : Nil

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