Impact of Intelligence Quotient (I.Q) Vs Emotional Quotient (E.Q) of basic-sciences faculty on feedback by medical undergraduates: An Institutional Study.

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Introduction and Rationale

Human-resource (H.R) providers have recently been stressing on the importance of I.Q and E.Q tests while inducting individuals. There is paucity of research-evidence in the field of medical education in this regard.

Objective:

This institution-based study was conducted to test which parameter among I.Q and E.Q of basic-sciences faculty is significantly appreciated by medical undergraduates.

Materials and Methods

A total of 20 lecturers who belonged to various basic-science departments of Avicenna Medical College were included in the study after informed consent. All of them were tested for I.Q score by S.I.T questionnaire and for E.Q by online quiz devised by the Institute for health and human potential. Their questionnaire-based feedback was obtained from medical undergraduates taught by them.

Results:

Qualitative questionnaires were measured on likert-scale. Means of the 3 parameters in each subject were compared by ANOVA. Positive feedback was highly-significant in lecturers with above average I.Q as well as E.Q, whereas it was significant in lecturers with E.Q better than I.Q, but was insignificant and / or negative in lecturers with below-average I.Q and E.Q.

Conclusion

Lecturers with above-average I.Q & E.Q are more appreciated by medical undergraduates and E.Q is relatively a more valued parameter.

Benefit & Future Prospect: To improve the standard of medical education, H.R. department at medical colleges may incorporate I.Q and E.Q tests in their selection-criteria at the time of employing faculty and E.Q should be given more rating over I.Q. Positive & negative feedback forms can be introduced to facilitate teaching and learning and will contribute to faculty development. It is strongly recommended that a process of faculty evaluation through feedback is incorporated in order to improve teaching and learning practices.

Keywords: I.Q, E.Q, Feedback, H.R, Faculty development.

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Knowledge And Attitude Of People Towards Organ Donation In A Rural Area Of Thiruvanthapuram

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Organ donation is a life saving process. Disease genetics may destroy some specific organ in our body while rest of our body remains healthy. Many times the best answer is to replace the damaged organ with a healthy one, through which many lives can be saved. Finding out the attitude towards organ donation gives an idea why there is hesitation in organ donation.

Objective:
1. To assess knowledge and attitude of people regarding organ donation
2. To know the inhibiting factors for not donating their organs.

Materials and Methods

Study Design: Cross Sectional Study
Study Setting: Mudakal Panchayath
Study population: people above 18 years of age
Study Sample: 100 people
Study Variable: Knowledge and attitude of people towards organ donation

Exclusion Criteria: Those who are not willing to take part in the study

Results

Majority of the study population was aware of the organ donation. 90% of people knew that eye can be donated after death and 86% know that the kidney can be donated. 49% were interested in organ donation after death especially eyes. 17% of the population was not interested in donating organs after death due to their religious beliefs. 62% think that there can be complications in procedures of organ donation.

Conclusion

There is no relation between knowledge and attitude. This study indicates that people who are well educated are more aware and have better attitude towards organ donation.

Keywords: Organ donation, knowledge and attitude, religion
Health problems and morbidity pattern of elderly population residing in Vembayampanchayath of Trivandrum District

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale
Elderly consists of 7% of total population in India and 13% of Kerala. They suffer from various types of health problems related to chronic diseases as a result of increase in life expectancy and change in life style. The increasing number of elderly persons and their attendant health problems have implication on public health programs in developing countries like India

Objective:
Aim of the study was to find out the prevalence of health problems and morbidity pattern of elderly in VembayamPanchayath

Materials and Methods
Study Design-Cross sectional Study
Study setting-Vembayampanchayath
Study population-Age above 60 years
Sample size-135 elderly persons

Study period-1 month
The study was conducted after getting clearance from IEC. Data was collected by house to house survey using a structured questionnaire after taking informed consent.

Results
Reported prevalence of health problems are as follows - visual impairment-68.1%, joint pain -63%, hypertension-53.3%, Diabetes -36.3%, hearing impairment-25.2%, Skin problems-17.8%, heart disease-15.6%, Memory loss-14.8% and Stroke -4.4%

Conclusion
The study revealed a large proportion of elderly are suffering from health problems. There is a growing need for interventions to ensure the health of this vulnerable group and to create a policy to meet the care and needs of the disabled elderly.

Keywords: Elderly, Morbidity pattern
Effects Of Cooking Fuels On Acute Respiratory Infection In Children In Kerala

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Biomass fuel use is the major cause of indoor air pollution in developing countries. Since biomass fuels are the dirtiest fuels, their composition which mainly takes place in poorly functioning indoor stoves leads to high levels of a number of health damaging pollutants such as participate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, formaldehyde, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and many other toxic compounds. Exposure to these pollutants in developing countries is reported to be higher in woman and children.

The principal objective of the study was to analyse the effects of cooking fuels on likelihood of ARI in children under five years old in Kerala. National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 under taken in 2005-2006 were used for the analysis. To assess the effect of cooking fuels on ARI, logistic regression analysis was conducted using SPSS. The results showed that prevalence in children from homes cooking on biomass fuels and from homes using kerosene or charcoal was more or less the same but a little higher among children from biomass fuels using homes. Logistic regression analysis in this study clearly revealed the effects of biomass fuels and cleaner fuels on ARI. The implications of the findings are very remarkable and important in health planning.

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Bioterrorism Knowledge and awareness among medical students

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Doctors can take crucial role to bioterrorism awareness, but relatively less studies has been done to evaluate their knowledge and awareness

Materials and Methods

387 students of MBBS undergraduate from National Medical College, Nepal took part in this study. This questionnaire based survey was done to assess their bioterrorism knowledge and the perceived benefits of education

Results

The response rate was 96%. Most respondents 72.86% (n=282) received no bioterrorism education. Third and fourth year students knowledge was comparatively more than Basic science students. A relatively less study population 7.75% (n=30) showed no interest in receiving bioterrorism education in the future. Average score on the knowledge test was 68%. Knowledge about different types of bioterrorism attack and biosurveillance were less among all the groups.

Conclusion

Course work of on Bioterrorism should be offered through continuing education, and this topic should be included in medical school curricula. Seminar, conferences and awareness programme can improve the present scenario..

Keywords: Bioterrorism, Biosurveillance, Nepal, Medical students
Integrated Medical Studies: Students feedback on curriculum

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale
Curriculum of medical sciences is made by learned professors of Universities, Education Ministry without consulting the students for whom it is made. Student’s Accreditation of curriculum may be useful in further modification of teaching and learning methods. In Nepal, Medical education is an integrated teaching programme of four and half years for MBBS degree but until now no accreditation has been done.

Objective:
The aim of the study was to find out the views of medical students on the integrated medical course and curriculum.

Materials and Methods
A total of one hundred and eighty six students participated in the study. A structured questionnaire was distributed among the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester students. The study was at Manipal college of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, Nepal. Chi square test were used for analytical purpose. P-value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. Internal validity of the questionnaire was assessed by using cronbach’s alpha.

Results
Most interesting basic medical science subject was Anatomy (33%), followed by Physiology (21%), Pharmacology (14%) & Pathology (12%). Very few have opted for Microbiology (4%) and Community Medicine (4%). Subjects like Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology should be reduced in first two semesters and should be continued till seven semester like community medicine when the students attend clinical subjects for better understanding of medicine.

Conclusion
Overall the results were alarming and may be taken up seriously by the policy makers. They can bring about modifications in course curriculum of universities in future.

Keywords: Curriculum, Integrated, Medical Science, Nepal
Controlling System Of Antibiotics In Tertiary Care Hospitals Nepal

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale
Antibiotic policy in Nepal is not in existence. Situation of antibiotic controlling system is unknown.

Objective:
Aimed to study the controlling system of antibiotics in tertiary care hospitals in Nepal.

Materials and Methods
A qualitative study was conducted in 5 tertiary care hospitals viz. Manipal Teaching Hospitals (MTH), Western Regional Hospital (WRH), Kist Hospital, Bir Hospital and Dhulikhel Hospital between January–March 2011. Semi-structured interviews were conducted among health care professional including clinicians, pharmacists, microbiologists, and hospital administrators.

Results
Altogether 47 people were interviewed. Interview suggest, there were lack of organizational structure in public hospitals viz. WRH, Bir Hospital in comparison to semi-functional antimicrobial and drug, and therapeutics committee in private hospitals. Interview suggests none of the study hospitals have written antibiotic policy. However, certain policy was followed in certain department based on understanding i.e. verbal policy. “…we discuss within the department and senior faculty members before starting fourth generation cephalosporin (Cefepime)” (Interview 2). Although, 4 out of 5 study hospitals were involved in the national antibiotic resistant surveillance program conducted by Nepal Public Health Laboratory, none of the clinicians were aware about such surveillance program indicating huge communication gap. “…no any surveillance in the hospital level but some doctors may personally have done some research” (Interview 9). Clinicians rarely look for culture sensitivity result before prescribing antibiotics. Common reasons given behind not looking for culture sensitivity was either patient already consumed antibiotic before visiting or cannot afford. Most of the clinicians believe that antibiotic over use was problem in their hospital which is responsible for the antibiotic resistance.

Conclusion
Study found poor controlling system in the public hospitals. Surprisingly, there were huge communication gap between the clinicians in regards to national surveillance program which need to be addressed.

Keywords: Controlling System, Rational use of antibiotics, Antibiotic resistance, Nepal.
Pre-treatment Effect of Methanolic Extract of Leucasaspera on CCl₄ Induced Liver Fibrosis In Rats

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale
Hepatic fibrosis, a precursor of cirrhosis, developing in response to chronic hepatocellular injury show general features of a wound repair process and involves the abnormal accumulation of extracellular matrix proteins (ECM), particularly collagens. In the injured liver these ECM components are produced in stellate cells. Hepatic stellate cells (HSCs) are the primary ECM producing cell type during hepatic fibrogenesis. The accumulation of components of the ECM is the main pathologic feature of hepatic fibrosis.

Objective:
This study was carried out to evaluate the pretreatment effect of methanolic extract of whole plant of Leucasaspera. The preventive effect of Leucasaspera on CCl₄ induced hepatic fibrosis was experimentally evaluated in rats.

Materials and Methods
Hepatic fibrosis was induced in male wistar rats by oral administration of CCl₄ (150µl/100g rat weight) twice a week for 10 weeks. In preventive treatment methanolic extract of L. aspera (MELA) at doses of 200mg and 100mg/kgb.wt and standard drug Silymarin at a dose of 50mg/kgb.wt were daily administered orally for 10 weeks.

Results
CCl₄ administration caused a significant decrease in body and liver weight. MELA at a dose of 200mg prevented or reversed the decline in body and liver weight. The elevated serum levels of AST, ALT & ALP were prevented or restored by the administration of plant extract. The treatment reduced the tissue levels of TBARS, CD & hydroxyproline, and increased tissue GSH, total protein and albumin in serum in chronically treated rats. Histopathological changes of hepatic lesions induced were significantly (p ≤ 0.05) improved by the treatment with L.aspera

Conclusion
The results demonstrated the antifibrotic effect of MELA as evidenced by biochemical parameters.

Keywords: Leucasaspera, carbontetrachloride, hepatic fibrosis, hydroxyproline, histopathology