

ASSESSING THE FACTORS INFLUENCING MEDICAL STUDENTS' CAREER CHOICES: A NATIONAL SURVEY

A1314

Hosseini Dolama R¹, Arabi M¹, Rezaei A¹, Khabaz Mafinejad M²

¹School of Medicine, Tehran University of medical Sciences, Iran

²Department of Medical Education, Tehran University of medical Sciences, Iran

Introduction

The uneven distribution of physicians across different specialties and the subsequent challenge of providing easy access to the needed care has been a major concern for Iranian health policymakers. Identification of factors affecting medical students' interest in different specialties would be helpful in encouraging students to pursue less favorable specialties. In this study, by means of a nation-wide multi-centric survey, we aimed to investigate the factors that influence Iranian medical students' career choices and its trend across the continuum of their professional development

Materials and Methods

A multi-site cross-sectional survey of medical students was conducted using a valid questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of three parts including demographic data, students' interests, and influencing factors which quantified the role of 30 different factors in 6 categories using a 5-point Likert scale. Face validity of the questionnaire was conducted by a nominal group of 76 medical students and the content validity was examined by 12 residents in different specialties. Reliability of the questionnaire was calculated by Cronbach's alpha coefficient (0.88). Finally, the web-based version of the questionnaire was sent to medical students across the country.

Results

Overall 2357 responses were gathered from 34 medical schools, 45% of them from male and 65.2% from pre-clinical students. Our study also revealed that only 6.2% of students had the experience of participating in a career planning course.

Conclusion

Iranian medical students consider "perceived personality fit to the specialty" and "individual competencies regarding certain specialty" the most important factors affecting their career choices.

