

Perception of Medical Students Regarding Career Guidance Programmes

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Medical students acquire knowledge and skills during their degree program and little focus on career progress and future professional developments. This study was performed to identify the factors influencing the selection of medical career pathway, students perception on career guidance programmes, as it is truly confusing making choices about the future options. If a medical student selects a career path divergent to his or her skills and passion, it can cause dissatisfaction in the rest of their medical practice. A group of medical students were selected who completed their final MBBS exam and participated in the career guidance program which was conducted online by a group of senior academics and a senior medical administrative person. Students' perception on the career guidance program was recorded using a Google form. Results were analysed to identify students' perspectives on career guidance program. Majority of the students were influenced by their personal preferences ahead of the parental influence during their selection on entering the medical pathway. The study showed most of the students depend on lecturers as their main source of information and students were considering the quality of life when deciding the future career path. Some of the students were facilitated by the inspirational specialists regarding the future career decision. Most of the students were not satisfied with the adequacy of the availability of programs to facilitate the decisions on career pathways. The majority identified the period before starting internship as the best time to conduct career guidance programs. Medicine and its related subspecialties stand as preferred future career choices of most of the students.

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