

Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Study on AETCOM Modules Among Medical Students

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Background: The Attitude, Ethics, and Communication (AETCOM) modules are integral components of medical education. These modules emphasize ethical practice, effective communication, and compassionate patient care. Understanding the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of medical students concerning these modules is crucial for assessing their effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement.

Aims and Objectives:

The primary objectives of this cross-sectional study are:

- To evaluate the level of knowledge medical students possess about AETCOM modules.
- To assess the attitudes of medical students towards the importance and implementation of these modules.
- To investigate the practices of medical students in applying principles from AETCOM modules in their clinical interactions.

Methodology:

Study Design and sampling :

A cross-sectional study conducted at Sri Ramachandra Institute of higher education and research, involving medical students from Second year and Phase 3 (Part I and Part II) using convenient sampling method. Willingness to answer the questionnaire was taken as consent for the study. Data Collection : After obtaining permission, data was collected using a structured questionnaire designed to capture:

- **Knowledge :** Questions will assess understanding of key concepts and principles taught in AETCOM modules.
- **Attitudes:** Likert scale items will gauge perceptions of the relevance and effectiveness of AETCOM modules.
- **Practices:** Situational questions will explore how students incorporate AETCOM principles in clinical settings.

Results:

Total of 758 responses were obtained , out of which 63.1% of participants were boys,34.6% were girls. 45.5% were from second year,26.1% were third years(Phase 3 Part I),24.5% were final years(Phase 3 Part II)

To begin with Knowledge domain ,96.5% of students opined that AETCOM focusses on Attitude,ethics and communication.79.5% of students felt rightly that Autonomy is the core principle of medical ethics. Patient centered care was felt as key component of medical professionalism as taught in AETCOM modules by 95.1% of students.Majority (94.5%) of students felt that “doctor patient’ relationship in AETCOM emphasizes the importance of establishing trust and effective communication.

In the attitude domain,57.5% students felt very positive about integrating communication skills into medical training,30.4% felt positive,11.4% were neutral. 48.6% students were very supportive towards addressing ethical issues in patient care.40.35 %were supportive. 43.1% students agreed that AETCOM modules were adequately preparing them for real world clinical scenarios.34.9% strongly agreed and 17.8% of students were neutral.72.9% students recommended the continuation of AETCOM modules in medical curriculum.

In the practices domain, 31.1% of students felt they apply communication skills learned from AETCOM sessions always. 46% often and 19% sometimes.Majority of students felt that AETCOM modules guided them in history taking,breaking

bad news and effective patient interaction. Improvements suggested by students were need of more interactive teaching sessions, sharing of real life clinical experiences by professors, bedside interactions, problem solving worksheets, debates and group discussions

Keywords: Aetcom , Kap Study, Medical Students

Conclusion

Our study brought into focus that medical students possess fairly good knowledge about AETCOM modules and their attitude towards AETCOM sessions are positive and their ability to practice the principles learnt from the sessions are commendable, which helped in identifying gaps and enhancing the relevance of these modules, thus ensuring that future healthcare professionals are well prepared to meet the ethical and communicative demands of their profession.

References

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