

Perception & Challenges of Pediatric Postgraduates in their District Residency Programme training (DRP)-A Trifaceted Cross-Sectional Analysis

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Introduction: DRP-District Residency Program has been recently introduced by the NMC (National Medical Commission) for medical postgraduates (PGs), both in clinical and non-clinical fields admitted in government and private medical colleges including deemed universities. This program is mandatory for all the students admitted in 2021 batch onwards. It also aimed at enhancing district health care system. There is paucity of data on the perception of DRP amongst postgraduates and faculties and studies are seldom in India. Hence, it is imperative to assess the perception and challenges in DRP training amongst postgraduates and faculties.

Aims And Objectives: This study is conducted amongst postgraduates of Pediatrics department of SRIHER and faculties to assess their perception, experience, scope of improvement in DRP training making it a trifaceted cross sectional analysis.

Materials And Methods: After approval from the Ethics Committee and with informed consent, questionnaire with both open ended and closed ended questions that was internally validated was circulated amongst postgraduates and faculties as google forms. Questionnaire included analysis involving the domains-facilities/logistics, skills, academics, DRP workplace, PGs and faculties point of view regarding advantages and scope of improvement in DRP posting. 35 postgraduates of Pediatrics department and 30 faculties of Pediatrics department participated in the study.

Results: Out of the 35 postgraduates, 21.875% were male and rest were female postgraduates. Amongst them, 59.37% attended DRP while rest are yet to do DRP postings. 52.6% did in their hometown. With regards to accommodation facilities 21.1% were extremely satisfied. An alarming 42.1% faced safety issues in DRP workplace most often whilst handling the attenders (66.7%). With regards to their social life, 57.9% postgraduates missed interaction. 63.2% were not in touch with the academic activities of the college. 52.6% were managing cases of all speciality with 47.4% having 4-6 stay-in duties. When asked about their overall experience, many postgraduates felt DRP is an opportunity to enhance skills, work in a government setup, manage with minimal resources. Amongst challenges, accommodation and safety issues were reported in majority by candidates who completed DRP. Out of the 14 postgraduates who are yet to do DRP, they feel DRP training is about gaining confidence in managing situations, exposure to other specialities, managing with limited resources. They feel the need to provide stipend for PGs doing DRP outside the state of postgraduation, accommodation, transportation to the DRP workplace. The faculties who participated in the study unanimously felt safety is one thing to be primarily looked into and DRP training should be done in place where they can enhance their skills. All candidates including faculties who participated in the study felt DRP should be done during II year. With regards to duration, majority of faculties feel duration of DRP should be shortened compared to post graduates' point of view with mean value 0.006. Also, analysis showed DRP does not necessarily pertain to their specialty (with insignificant value 0.943).

Conclusion

DRP training included as a part of NMC curriculum is accepted amongst postgraduates and faculties. All of them unanimously accept that II year is ideal to have DRP training. In terms of academics, both postgraduates and faculties feel PGs are not in touch with the academic activities of the college and hence DRP workplace should be actively involved in improving the knowledge. Safety, accommodation, transportation are few issues that need to be addressed.

Keywords: DRP, Postgraduates, NMC

References

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