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SELF-PERCEPTION ON ACHIEVEMENT OF UKM MEDICAL DOCTOR (MD) PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

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Background:

Outcome-based education (OBE) emphasizes the importance of measurable end products of the educational process. Medical curricula are now designed to be more student-centred and community-based. In the year 2005, UKM Faculty of Medicine, in its integrated curricula, has outlined eleven outcomes to be achieved at the end of the five-year course.

Materials and Methods:

A self-assessment survey was conducted in June 2009 among the final year medical students (n=222), to determine their perception of the achievement of the programme outcomes in the beginning of the academic year (batch 2009/2010). The students were given a questionnaire with a Likert rating scale of 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (unsure), 4 (agree) and 5 (strongly agree), to indicate their own perception on the level of achievement of each of the programme outcomes. A similar survey was again conducted in January 2010, on the same cohort (n=177), to document any changes to the students' perception six months later.

Results:

During the first survey, programme outcomes related to caring attitudes (PO5) and communication skills (PO7) were perceived as most highly achievable. More than 30% of students indicated that they were unsure about the achievement of programme outcomes related to scientific approach and critical-thinking skills (PO2), leading collaboration with other health professionals (PO4) and competency in ICT (PO9). In the second survey six months later, there was a significant increase in positive responses in all eleven programme outcomes. As expected, programme outcome related to leading other health professionals (PO4) has the highest negative and 'unsure' responses (35%), since this outcome could only be realistically evaluated after the students have graduated and started working.

Conclusion:

This survey is instrumental to assist the faculty in improving the curriculum, as well as facilitating students to regularly referring to the programme outcomes to guide their learning process.

Keywords:

Outcome-based education, medical curriculum, medical students, self-perception