

Comparison of Satisfaction Level with Selected Profession among Medical and Non Medical Students

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A B S T R A C T

Background: Satisfaction with selected profession is a major factor responsible for achieving excellence in the field.

Objective: The purpose of this study was to compare the satisfaction level with selected profession among medical and non medical students of Riphah International University.

Methodology: A comparative cross sectional study was conducted in Riphah International University from Jan 2017 to March 2017. 800 students were selected by using non probability convenient sampling who met the inclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria consisted of undergraduate students with age bracket 22-26 years, both medical and non medical students, students of both gender, students of final year. All those students who were working part time or on daily wages were excluded from the study. Data collection was done by a specifically designed questionnaire. Data analysis was done by SPSS 20.

Results: Mean age of participants in the study was 21.80 ± 2.00 years. Satisfaction level was found to be higher in medical students as P value < 0.05 for most of the questions. When students were asked about joining of their profession, most students responded that they have joined profession by choice in both medical and non medical group i.e. 36.90% and 29.60% respectively.

Conclusion: Medical students were found to be more satisfied than non medical students. Medical students have shown greater levels of satisfaction with academics, professional services, professional excellence, salary packages and support from community and seniors.

Introduction

Professional satisfaction has also been defined as, "the extent to which a staff member has favourable or positive feelings about work or the work environment". It refers to the positive attitudes or emotional dispositions people may gain from work or through aspects of work. Job satisfaction can also be defined as the feeling and perception of a worker regarding his/her profession and how he or she feels well in an organisation.¹ Any constructive field or job gives us the opportunity to use our skills and education, to develop our talents in the field we have chosen. It enables us to grow personally,

spiritually and creatively. It also provides us the opportunities to contribute in wellbeing of the society.²

Professional satisfaction depends on several different factors. These factors play a very important role in developing the level of satisfaction of individual, such as satisfaction with pay, promotion opportunities, fringe benefits, job security, relationship with co-workers and supervisors and communication within the organisation.^{3,4} Every profession requires hard work, commitment and satisfaction of an individual. The level of satisfaction of a student with the profession determines the level of

success of a student.⁵ The main purpose of education is not the achievement of satisfaction but indirectly it is one of the main component of student performance that ultimately affects his professional growth in future. Although satisfaction in students depends upon many factors like his GPA, being persistent, intellectual growth and academic competency. A study on engineering students reported that those students who successfully achieve the professional goals in student life were more satisfied than others and they stated that there is a strong effect of satisfaction with performance. The more the student is satisfied, more better is his performance leading him to success.⁶

Medical students suffer from high rates of depression and suicidal ideation than other population. The main reason of this is their dissatisfaction with the profession that they choose most of the times due to influence of other people⁷. Medical students were found to be under high psychological stress like depression, anxiety, burn out leading to effects on academic performance and professional growth.⁸

The current study was conducted to determine the level of satisfaction of the students with their profession which they have chosen in the career life. It is also put in observation that whether the students have selected a career with their choice, with the guidance of career counselors or they have just selected their career without any proper guidance and consultancy of knowing about the path they have selected..

Methodology

It was a comparative cross sectional study conducted in different campuses of Riphah International University in Rawalpindi and Islamabad from Jan 2017 to March 2017. 800 students were selected by using non probability convenient sampling who met the inclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria consisted of undergraduate students from eight different departments of Riphah International University with age bracket 22-26 years. In addition, both medical and non medical students, students of both gender, students of final year in case of MBBS and BDS and ninth and final semester of other disciplines; Doctor of physical therapy (DPT), Doctor of pharmaceutical Sciences engineering, management sciences, media sciences, social sciences and computing

were also included in the study. All those students who were working part time or on daily wages were excluded from the study. Data was collected after the approval from research committee of Doctor of physical therapy from Riphah International University Islamabad. An informed written consent was taken from every participant before enrollment in the study. Data collection was done by using a specifically designed questionnaire after extensive review of literature. Questionnaire consisted of some direct questions marked according to likert scale(from 1= very dissatisfied to 6= extremely satisfied) and some indirect questions that are also marked according to likert scale as 1 being completely disagree to 6 meaning completely agreed. Results were evaluated after the completion of data collection by SPSS ver. 21. Descriptive data was presented in the form of graphs and tables. As Data was not homogenous so tests of choice for comparisons of mean were non parametric tests and Mann Whitney U test was applied for comparisons of mean between medical and non medical students.

Results

Total 800 students participated in the study. Out of which 401(50.1%) were medical and 399(49.9%) were non medical students. Mean age of participants in the study was 21.80 ± 2.00 years. The frequency of students from different departments was as follows; MBBS (12.63%), DPT (12.5%), MBBS (12.5%), BDS (12.5%), Pharmacy (12.5%), Engineering (12.5%), Management sciences (12.4%), Computer sciences (12.5%) and Media sciences (12.5%). When students were asked about joining of their profession, most students of medical responded that they have joined profession by choice while in non medical students, response was varied as equal responses were shown while choosing profession; by choice as well as they genuinely want to help others (figure 1).

According to the results of the current study, satisfaction level was found to be higher in medical students in both direct and indirect questions as P value < 0.05 for most of the questions. The details of different questions about satisfaction level and response of participants regarding their level of satisfaction are provided in table I and II.

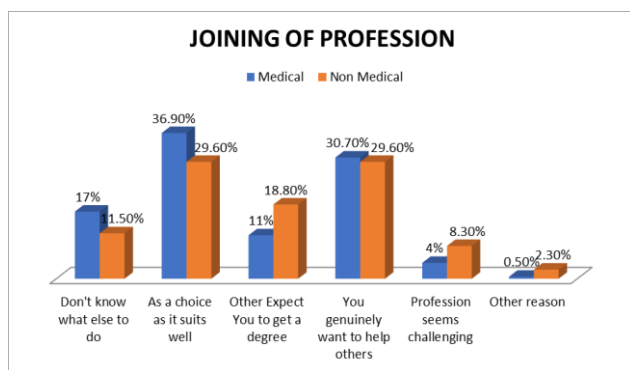


Figure 1: Reasons for Joining of Profession

Table I: Response to direct questions regarding satisfaction about profession among students

Variable	Medical students Median (IQR)	Non Medical students Median (IQR)	Z values	P values
Satisfaction with selected profession	5(1.50-5.0)	1(1-5)	-9.76	<0.001***
Satisfaction with academic standards in profession	4(3-5)	3(2-4)	-6.28	<0.001***
Satisfaction with innovation of a profession	4(3-5)	4(3-5)	-2.37	0.018*
Satisfaction with services provided to the community	4(2-5)	3(2-4)	-7.05	<0.001***
Satisfaction with the space of profession and facilities provided to the profession	4(3-5)	3(2-5)	-3.74	<0.001***
Satisfaction with quality of graduate level teaching in the profession	4(2-5)	1(1-4)	-8.85	<0.001***
Satisfaction with the professional content for research and professional goals	4(3-5)	3(3-4)	-4.58	<0.001***
Satisfaction with employment level after completion of graduate degree	3(2-5)	3(2-5)	-1.24	0.215
Satisfaction with excellence of profession currently in country	4(3-4)	4(3-4)	-1.11	0.265
Satisfaction with	4(3-5)	4(2-5)	-3.46	0.001**

excellence of profession after 5 years in the country				
Satisfaction with the attitude of other disciplines in the country	4(3-5)	4(3-5)	-0.84	0.401
Satisfaction with attitude of community towards the profession	3(2-5)	3(2-4)	-0.60	0.545
Satisfaction with attitude of seniors in the field	4(2-5)	2(1-4)	-7.01	<0.001***
Satisfaction with salary package offered after graduate degree	3(2-4)	3(2-4)	-2.94	0.003**
Satisfaction with first job being offered	3(2-4)	3(2-5)	-0.61	0.539

Table II: Response to indirect questions regarding satisfaction about profession among students

Variable	Medical students Median(IQR)	Non Medical students Median (IQR)	Z values	P values
Profession seems interesting	4(3-5)	4(1-5)	-6.56	<0.001***
Profession is innovative	4(3-5)	3(3-5)	-3.20	0.001**
Profession is challenging	4(3-5)	4(2-5)	-5.48	<0.001***
Professional jealousy in the field	4(2-5)	3(2-4)	-3.86	<0.001***
Professional jealousy with other fields	4(3-5)	3(2-5)	-3.03	0.002**
Selection of same professional career again	4(3-5)	4(3-5)	-0.97	0.332
Recommendation of profession to others	5(4-5)	4(3-5)	-3.15	0.002**

Discussion

The current study showed greater satisfaction levels among medical students than non medical students in Riphah International University, Rawalpindi and Islamabad campuses. Sojkin et al determined the satisfaction of students with higher education choices and the results of the study identified five main factors

determining a decision to pursue a university education. The most influential factors were: family opinion and expectations, and student-like type of life. Much lower means were reported regarding family financial support, better chances to find a job, and professional advancement.⁹ In the current study, lesser scores were found for selection of profession due to professional advancement. Lesser number of students in both medical and non medical groups reported it to be reason of profession selection however more students selected profession as they believed it suits them well and because they thought by this means they can help others. Payakachatet. et al. determined the job and career satisfaction among pharmacy Preceptors. The study shows an active preceptor was significantly related to increased job satisfaction but not to career satisfaction. Having a perceived benefit of continuing education and being professionally challenged at work also were associated with increased job and career satisfaction. Pharmacist preceptors have higher levels of self-reported job satisfaction.¹⁰ In the current study, most of the students in medical group showed increased satisfaction with the professional excellence currently and also after 5 years that might be the one reason of their satisfaction with their selected profession. Feng Kong et al determined the relationships among gratitude, self-esteem, social support and life satisfaction among undergraduate students. The study showed higher levels of gratitude and satisfaction were positively associated with more perceived social support, greater self-esteem and greater life satisfaction.¹¹ In current study no significant difference was found between medical and non medical groups when attitude of society or community was considered. However medical students were found to be more satisfied with the attitude of their seniors than non medical group that might be a reason for their greater satisfaction scores with the field than non medical students.

Suhre et al reported that student persistence can be predicted by their degree of integration. According to them there are two kinds of integration; academic and social. Academic integration refers to how students perform academically (grades) and social integration is how the students interact with faculty.¹² Although they have not focused directly on satisfaction level but they

have shown that student can perform well if they are satisfied with the academic challenges provided to them and the faculty that can help them to meet these challenges. In the current study both factors, satisfaction of students was found for both academic challenges and faculty; however both groups showed satisfaction with the academic challenges and faculty but medical students showed more satisfaction than non medical students. Barnes and Randall in their study determined doctoral student satisfaction and reported that overall satisfaction level is equivalent in multiple disciplines. Their study incorporated current, recent and former graduate students and according to them student satisfaction varies within field and according to specific demands of their work.¹³ Curran et al did a study to determine the importance of interprofessional education curriculum on student satisfaction and attitudes towards interprofessional team work and reported a positive response of the students.¹⁴ In the current study similarly both medical and non medical groups showed increased satisfaction with the attitude of other professions in the university. In a study by Dehlin et al medical students were found to be more depressed than others due to different factors like decreased time for themselves, poor attitude of teachers, unambiguity about what they are doing, unsure about their future.⁷ While in current study medical students were found to be more satisfied with their profession. This contradiction might have occurred in results as data is collected from only one university that might have better medical education than other disciplines with better provision of facilities. Although results showed more satisfaction in medical students of the university there were some limitations in the study like; data collection from a single university, generalized aspects of satisfaction were studied in the students, irresponsible attitude of the students while filling questionnaire and small duration of study. Future studies are recommended at a large scale with some different measurement tools and with focus on specific population so that exact statistics can be obtained about satisfaction in different fields.

Conclusion

It is concluded that medical students of Riphah International University, Rawalpindi and Islamabad campus are more satisfied than non medical students.

Medical students have shown greater levels of satisfaction with academics, professional services, professional excellence, salary packages and support from community and seniors. Most of the medical students have shown greater levels of professional jealousy and recommendation of their profession to others than non medical students of Riphah International University.

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