

Knowledge and attitude towards personal professional development and the influence of selected factors on personal professional development among the medical students at University of Jaffna

Shayani V¹, Sophia P¹, Surenthirakumaran R², Kandeepan K³

¹*Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

²*Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

³*Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

Background: Considering the lifelong continuous learning, a personal and professional development stream (PPDS) was introduced in the medical curriculum of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna since 2012. There are little studies available regarding the knowledge and attitude towards PPDS among medical students. Hence, this study was designed to describe the knowledge and attitude on personal professional development (PPD) and the influence of selected factors on PPD among medical students.

Methods: This study was an institutional based descriptive study conducted among students of faculty of medicine, university of Jaffna. Data were collected using self-administered questionnaire after obtaining written consent. The questionnaire consists of a) knowledge, attitude towards PPD and b) influence of family and childhood opportunities on PPD. Data were analyzed using the statistical software SPSS version 21.

Results: Among the students 468, 13.5% obtained low grade while 80.1% and 6.4% of the students obtained average and good grade on knowledge of personal and professional development and 25.9% of student had right attitude whereas 74.1% of students had reduced attitude towards personal professional development. Students studied in private schools and those studied in urban area had more points in knowledge and have showed right attitude more than the others. This finding is supported by literature where public and private school participants significantly differed on self-esteem, with private school participants reporting high levels of self-esteem ($M \leq 30.36$) and public school participants ($M \leq 26.92$) reporting moderate levels of self-esteem.

Conclusion: Majority of the students obtained average knowledge and showed low attitude towards personal professional development and the child-hood opportunities influenced the most.