

OP 14 Relationship between the performance in common examinations at school level and 1st examination for medical degrees at Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

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INTRODUCTION : No studies have been carried out with Jaffna University, Medical students to compare their performance in the common examinations at school level and at the Medical Faculty.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this study is to describe the relationship between the performances of the Medical Students of University of Jaffna at the 1st Examination for Medical Degrees at the 1st Attempt and G.C.E. (A/L), G.C.E. (O/L) and Grade 5 scholarship examinations.

METHODS : A cross-sectional descriptive institution based study was carried out at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, with the 231 Medical students who were admitted from the academic year 2005/06 to 2008/09. Self administered Questionnaire was used as the tool to collect data. SPSS (version 19) software was used to analyze the data.

RESULTS: Among the 231 students 155 (67%) students had successfully completed their 1st examination for Medical Degrees at their 1st attempt. Majority of the students (56.3%) have gained entrance to the Medical Faculty from their first attempt at the G.C.E (A/L) examination. There was a statistically significant correlation between 1st Examination for Medical Degrees and Z-score of G.C.E. (A/L) examination (p value < 0.05). Out of 183 students 79 students obtained Z-score more than 2.000 in their G.C.E. (A/L) examination and 75.9 % of them have passed in 1st examination for Medical Degrees in 1st attempt. Among those who have failed in General English of G.C.E.(A/L) about 50% were referred and failed in 1st examination for Medical Degrees in their 1st attempt (p value <0.05). Out of 228 students, 167 students obtained more than 8 A in G.C.E.(O/L) examination and 72.5% of them have passed the 1st Examination for Medical Degrees at 1st attempt (p value < 0.05). There is no significant correlation between the performances in 1st examination for Medical Degrees and Grade V Scholarship Examination (p value > 0.05).

CONCLUSION: There is a greater chance of failing the 1st Examination for Medical Degrees in 1st attempt as the G.C.E (A/L) examination Z-score decreases. There was an association between English language skill and passing the 1st Examination for Medical Degrees at the 1st attempt. There was no significant correlation between the performances in 1st examination for Medical Degrees and Grade V Scholarship Examination (p value > 0.05).