

## **OP 26 Students' perception of the educational environment in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna**

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**INTRODUCTION:** The Dundee Ready Educational Environment Measure is a universal tool developed by the Dundee medical school that enables health professionals /medical educators to measure the state of their school's learning and teaching environment.

**OBJECTIVES:** The objective of the study was to assess the student's perception of the educational environment in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna and to identify its' strengths and weaknesses.

**METHODS:** The DREEM questionnaire was administered face to face to all the medical students of one batch each in Phase I (pre-clinical), II and III (para-clinical) following one of their scheduled lectures. The questionnaire has 50 statements that are rated by the students using a five point Likert scale (0 to 4). The statements are categorised into 5 subscales.

**RESULTS:** A total of 221 students participated in the study. The overall DREEM score was 112 (out of 200) which falls into the category of "more positive than negative". "Students perception of the atmosphere" was the subscale that got the minimum rating (51%) with all the subscales falling within the category of "more positive than negative". The students have indicated that the teaching is too teacher centred, the atmosphere in teaching learning sessions is stressful and that they are too tired to enjoy this course as related statements obtained a mean score below 2. Features with average scores are: encouragement to participate in class, clear learning objectives and relevance of learning. The positive features scoring more than 3 are knowledgeable teachers, students' confidence in passing this year and having good friends in the faculty.

**CONCLUSION:** The Dundee Ready Educational Environment Measure has been proven to be a useful tool to measure the educational environment. As the results indicate, the educational environment of the Faculty of Medicine could be improved.