

UNDERGRADUATE ATTITUDES TO THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM

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The second, third, fourth and final year student population of the Colombo Medical School were surveyed by a self-administered questionnaire. 59 items in six parts were given to include details of a socio-economic nature, inquire into the

students' satisfaction with their choice of career and their aspirations, the areas of anticipated further specialization, attitudes to the medium of instruction, lectures, tutorials, continuous assessment, examinations and other forms of evaluation. The majority of students were satisfied as to their choice of career and hoped to enjoy their lives as doctors. The respondents were mainly of middle-class origin and roughly 20% were on bursaries or bank loans. Almost 100% wished their education to be in English and nearly all students found English to be very useful or indispensable to them. The need for optional lectures was equally strongly felt. Over 50% desired a change in the system of evaluation and some 70% would like examinations to be common to Colombo and Peradeniya. The great majority of respondents, even in their final years, had not committed themselves to further specialisation but of those who had, the conventional specialities were favoured. The student responses have been analysed and the results have been critically discussed.