

Comparative assessment of knowledge regarding domestic violence (DV) among medical undergraduates

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Medical undergraduates learn facts on social and health issues related to domestic violence (DV) in the Community and Behavioural streams and Medico-Legal and Special Topics modules in the undergraduate curriculum.

A questionnaire based study to compare knowledge and attitudes regarding DV among medical undergraduates of A/L 2004 (101 students, 49 male: 49 females) and A/L 1999 (91 students, 46 males: 45 females) was conducted. A scoring system was used in the assessment of the questionnaires. Statistical analysis was by SPSS software package.

Total knowledge was significantly better among A/L 1999 (4th year) compared to A/L 2004 (1st year), (63.04% and 40.1%, $p < 0.001$). A significant difference was noted between the two batches for the following. Knowledge of, risk factors and triggers (40.43% and 20%, $p < 0.001$), law (53.4% and 34.7%, $p < 0.001$), patient care (73.6% and 45.63%, $p < 0.001$), health consequences (55.7% and 18.15%, $p < 0.001$), respectively for A/L 1999 and A/L 2004. The presence of gender neutral attitudes (GNA) was also significantly better among senior students (66.8% and 47.5%, $p < 0.001$).

On analysis of students of the A/L 2004 batch a significant difference in total knowledge score was absent between females and males (40.91% and 39.49%, $p > 0.05$). However a significant difference was noted for the following

components of knowledge. Prevalence of DV and pregnancy related issues (35.71% and 21.43%, $p < 0.05$), legal aspects (30.32% and 38.48%, $p < 0.05$), and health consequences (12.24% and 25.17%, $p < 0.05$) for females and males respectively. The GNA were not significantly different (females, 51.02%; males, 45.35%, $p > 0.05$).

On analysis of A/L 1999 batch a significant difference in total knowledge was not found between females and males (65.17% and 60.96%, $p > 0.05$). However a significantly better knowledge was noted on DV prevalence and pregnancy related issues among females, compared to males (38.89% and 21.74%, $p < 0.05$). The GNA between females and males were significantly different (70.62% and 63.04%, $p > 0.05$).

The study showed that the knowledge on DV and development of GNA has improved markedly by the 4th year. However the improvement on GNA attitudes was significantly better in females.