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Attitudes toward inter-professional healthcare teams: A comparison between 1st year and 3rd year students at Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences

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Objective: The purpose of this study is to describe attitudes toward inter-professional education in Mongolia National University of Medical Sciences.

Methods: Cross-sectional study, Heinemann, et al. developed the Attitudes Toward Health Care Teams Scale (ATHCTS, 21-item instrument), which has potential for evaluating clinically based team training programs as well as use a pre and post-test tool for educational interventions with teams. A 14 item instrument in which items containing the word physician have been removed from the original instrument is a modified version adapted by Curran, et al. to measure attitudes towards health care teams.

Results: In total, 249 grade-1 and 243 grade-3 undergraduate students participated in the study, respectively. Response rates by academic units of the undergraduate students were NS 88.3% (n=223), MD 39.0% (n=193), PT 53.8% (n=29) and LS 42.0% (n=47), respectively. Comparisons using the Mann-Whitney test indicated that in mean scores of seven items, item 1 (3.83 ± 1.169 vs. 4.38 ± 0.854 , $P < 0.0001$), item 3 (3.97 ± 1.167 vs. 4.43 ± 0.702 , $p < 0.05$), item 4 (3.99 ± 1.163 vs. 4.61 ± 0.62 , $P < 0.0001$), item 13 (3.5 ± 1.164 vs. 4.11 ± 0.946 , $P < 0.001$), 1st year students showed significantly lower scores than 3rd year undergraduate students.

Conclusion: The present results showed that students possessed more positive attitudes toward IPE than 1 year's undergraduate students, suggesting that exposure to clinical practice may result in withdrawal of the attitudes toward healthcare teams.

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