

Comparison of determinants of career selection between final year undergraduate medical students and interns

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Abstract

Introduction: With a wide rural - urban divide existing in health care provision and also not attaining the prescribed doctor –patient ratio, Indian health care system has been struggling to keep up to global standards. The knowledge about the trends in decision making and the determinants affecting their choice might be of immense help to administrators during drafting policy planning.

This study of career preference among final year medical graduates and interns and their determinants in a rural medical college was conducted.

Aim: to find out the career preferences among the final year MBBS students and CRRI's, and to compare the determinants.

Materials and Methods: A cross sectional questionnaire based study given by a sample of 142 final year MBBS students and 140 CRRI's. Using 11 fixed response questions about their career choice after MBBS, results have been analysed by SPSS software and chi square test have been applied to find out the significance.

Conclusion: majority of the students likes to work in government job, and there is significance between demographic area and gender in deciding factor for choosing government jobs and politics.

Keywords: Career choice, Education, Medical, Undergraduate.

Introduction

The current medical education scenario in India exhibits increase in number of undergraduate medical seats. This increase indirectly points towards need for speciality trained faculty to ensure appropriate training happening at undergraduate level.¹ Unfortunately in India, for every 100 undergraduate seats only 29 postgraduate seats are presently available creating a wide disparity.²

The success of a doctor getting tied up with the higher levels of training resulted in cut throat competition for post graduate seats especially in clinical specialities.³In spite of this situation, personal choices of the medical graduates influenced by various intrinsic and extrinsic parameters do play a major role in speciality selection during post-graduation.⁴

Among those multitude factors, gender was noted to exert major influence during speciality selection in post-graduation by many previous studies in diverse countries.⁶⁻⁹

The progression of Indian medical graduate from preclinical to clinical subjects coursing through para clinical subjects in time bound, assessment driven manner leaves limited scope for them to develop deep interest for any specific speciality. The compulsory resident internship period had been shown by few studies to exert future choice of speciality to some extent.^{2,10,11}

With a wide rural - urban divide existing in health care provision and also not attaining the prescribed doctor – patient ratio, Indian health care system has been struggling to keep up to global standards. Even though an Indian medical graduate's choice of speciality remains irrevocable, the knowledge about the trends in decision making and the

determinants affecting their choice might be of immense help to administrators during drafting policy planning.

And so this study of career preference among final year medical graduates and interns and their determinants in a medical college which is located in rural part of Tamil Nadu was conducted.

Materials and Methods

After the clearance from institutional research board for no involvement of ethical issues in this study, a cross sectional survey was conducted by prevalidated questionnaire consisting of two sections, first section consists of age, gender and demographic background, second section consists of eleven fixed response questions about their career choices, without mentioning post graduate studies, the questionnaire have been issued to final year part two MBBS students who are all entered before three months and CRRI's who are going to complete their internship in three months, we informed all the students about the questionnaire, explained how to fill up the questionnaire, written consent was obtained from all of the students. A sample of 142 final year students and 140 CRRI's participated in this study. Obtained primary data analysed with SPSS software, and chi square test was done to compare gender with politics and government service, and also with demographic background. If the parents of the students residing in a rural part of any state they have to mention as rural background, if their parents where residing in urban part then they have to mention as urban background. The response rate was 100 percent, because we allowed the interested students to participate in this study.

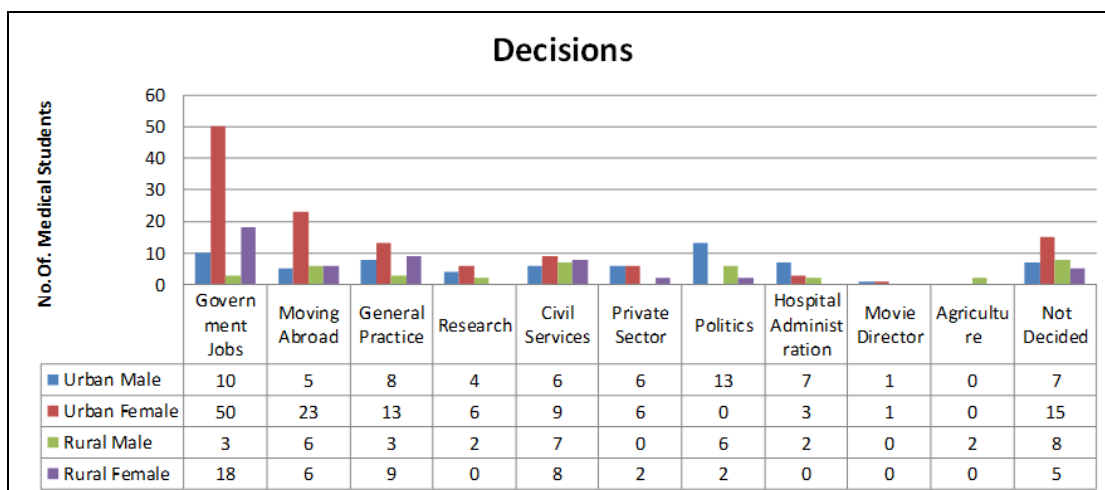


Fig. 1

Results

Interestingly 10% of male and 12% of female from urban demographic area have not decided about their career choices, 21% of male and 10% female from rural demographic area have not decided their career choices.

5% of male students from rural demographic area have selected doing agriculture as a choice of career, 1% of urban male wants to be a movie director, 10% of male and 3% of female students from urban demographic and 5% of male from rural demographic wants to be hospital administrator.

9% of male, 7% of female from urban demographic area and 18% of male 16% of female from rural demographic area are interested to become civil service officers. 7%of male, 18% of female from urban demographic area and 15% of male, 12% of female from rural demographic area are ready to move abroad after their course in India.

9% of male, 5% of female from urban and 4% of female wanted to be in private organisation, didn't like to join in government jobs. 6% of male, 5% of female from urban demographic area and 5% of male from rural are interested to do research as their career choice.

Finally 15% male, 40% female from urban demographic area and 8% male, 36% female from rural demographic area are interested to work in government sector,13% male from urban demographic area and 15% male, 4% female from rural demographic area are interested to be a politician, all these data's can be referred from Fig. 1.

There is a significance in impact of demographic area and gender in deciding factor for choosing government jobs and politics, male students showed more interest towards participating in this study compared to female students and there is no difference whether the students are from the rural or urban demographic area.

Discussion

many authors have published various studies about student preferences to their post graduate field,^{10,11} our study mostly aims at whether they wants to continue their medical field or

not, our fixed response questions where designed like that, in our study females from urban and rural demographic are have selected to be a government doctor, which is the highest response rate of 40% and 36%, all the students select government job as their highest preference which is 28.7%. This shows students are showing interest to work in the government jobs.

Conclusion

Majority of the students prefer to work as a government doctor which is significantly proved from this study, mostly urban demographic students shows their interest towards government jobs, but not showing interest towards the research field after MBBS for the students raises an alarm, career counselling should be mandatory for MBBS students to enlighten them about various fields available to them.

Source of Funding

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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