

## An Evaluation of Orientation Program of Postgraduates doing MD/MS: Students' perspective

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### Abstract:

#### Background:

Healthcare professionals play an important role in public health services. As such in the present-day scenario the medical education system does not prepare the post graduate students to undertake their supervisory and managerial responsibilities from the first day of entering the medical college as a resident.

#### Aims and Objectives:

The present study was done with an objective to orient Post Graduate Students regarding place of working and up-liftment of skills during their work place.

#### Methodology:

A total of 88 students of First year MD-MS participated in the study. Students were asked to fill an anonymous semi-structured, predesigned questionnaire. Frequency and percentage were calculated and pie and bar charts were shown for the graphical representation.

#### Results:

In the present study 76.14% were strongly agree with orientation program (OP) sessions. Among all the postgraduates 56.82%, 44.32% and 56.82% were found to be strongly agree for Communication Skills, Breaking Bad News and making Medical Death Certificate appropriately. In this study 55 (62.50%) students were agreed strongly for Objective of the programme met, 35 (39.77%) were strongly agree for Sessions according to the work profile, 50 (56.82) strongly agreed for the time maintenance of the sessions, 56 (63.64) were strongly agreed for relevance of the topics in their routine work.

**Conclusion:** Mostly students were strongly agree with the learnings from the orientation programme. This orientation programme laid a strong foundation for better understanding and learning for the students since it was not necessarily that they belonged to the same college in which the MBBS was done.

**Keywords:** Agree; Curriculum; Educations; Sessions.

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### I. Introduction:

Healthcare professionals play an important role in public health services. The purpose of PG education is to create specialists who would provide high quality health care and advance the cause of science through research & training. According to the recent guidelines laid down by the National Medical Council (NMC) (previously known as the Medical Council of India (MCI)) in the Competency Based Curriculum for the Indian medical post graduates, the relevance of the orientation program has been well emphasized and is mandatory for the first year MD/MS students.[1&2] These programmes are being restructured to make students more participatory & competent. To familiarize these new post graduates with their tasks in wards/departments & their role in the community, an Orientation programme was conducted. The Orientation programme focussed on the development of behavioural competency, methods to familiarize students to campus environment, learning techniques & different ways to facilitate the stress-coping strategies for the students. [3-4]

The Aims and objectives were to – (i) To gain academic skills and knowledge about the duties and responsibilities of resident doctors as a post graduate. (ii) To appreciate the need for developing good communication skills for a better doctor patient relationship. (iii) To demonstrate various counselling skills by role play. (iv) To identify the ethical issues involved in patient care. (v) To emphasize for breaking a bad news of the patient. (vi) To explain the medico legal issues & the importance of Record Keeping. (vii) To assess the importance of medication error and Adverse Drug Reactions (ADR). (viii) To develop a sense of belonging and accountability for the Department & the college.

## II. Materials and Methods:

The present study was done at G.R. Medical College Gwalior in June 2018 in which Dean of the Medical College took a special interest for this PG orientation session of 1 day. A total of 88 PG students of first year attended the session who were admitted for the Batch of 2018 as the remaining were on the emergency duties in the respective wards. A brief history of the college, details of the J.A. Group of Hospitals & other Departments of the Hospitals and their working was introduced by the Dean of the institution. The students were shown the Padam Shree Awardees of the institution who laid the history in the College to explain the importance of the College for doing a PG Degree. This was followed by a session from Head of the Department of Surgery who explained the roles and responsibilities of PG resident. After this session on communication skills for 'good doctor patient relationship' and other applied aspects were taken by the Head of Department of Ophthalmology and Professor from Department of PSM. The students were enquired regarding the reminding of Hippocratic Oath which was taken at the time of entry of MBBS on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and since they had started the Post-Graduation its view was also taken into account.

At last 'medical ethics' were also discussed by Professor Department of PSM department. After all the sessions the PG students were asked to fill the feedback form in which for every session a Likert scale of 1 to 5 was used as Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. They were also asked to rate regarding the impact of orientation programme in future. They were also enquired regarding the objectives of the PG programme and whether they were framed according to their work profile, time management topics chosen for session which would help them to work smoothly in their respective duties. Role of medical ethics was also discussed and other skills which would help them in improving doctor patient relationship.

The different sessions taken were rated on a Likert scale and the percentage was calculated and bar and pie chart were shown for graphical presentation. An open session was also organized and one to one queries and discussion was also made to clarify the student's doubts also as the Director and Superintendent of JA Group of Hospitals was also there in the valedictory to solve their problems and so a direct one to one approach regarding the problems faced by the students were also discussed during their duty hours regarding their work place, duty room or OPD.

He also emphasized on the word 'residence' which means 'where we live' which specified that resident means that he has to stay in the wards for his duties round the clock.

## III. Results:

It was observed that overall the programme was successful & was appreciated by all the post graduates in various aspects. Of 88 students who have attended OP in the college, 76.14% were strongly agree with OP sessions, 68.18% strongly agree with the Duties and responsibilities of resident doctors performed in the hospital and college. Among all the postgraduates 56.82%, 44.32%, 56.82%, 56.82%, 71.59% and 68.18% were found to be strongly agree for Communication Skills, Breaking Bad News, Medical Death Certificate, Medication Error, Medical ethics and Medicolegal issues in health care and record keeping. (Table 1)

**Table 1: Perception of the students to various questions:**

Sr. No.	Student's perception	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	Orientation Session	6(6.82)	15(17.05)	67(76.14)	88
2	Duties and responsibilities of resident Doctors	0(0.00)	28(31.82)	60(68.18)	88
3	Communication Skills	5(5.68)	33(37.50)	50(56.82)	88
4	Breaking Bad News	10(11.36)	39(44.32)	39(44.32)	88
5	Medical Death Certificate	6(6.82)	32(36.36)	50(56.82)	88
6	Medication Error	5(5.68)	33(37.50)	50(56.82)	88
7	Medical Ethics	1 (1.14)	24 (27.27)	63 (71.59)	88
8	Medicolegal issue in health care and record keeping	6 (6.82)	22 (25.00)	60 (68.18)	88

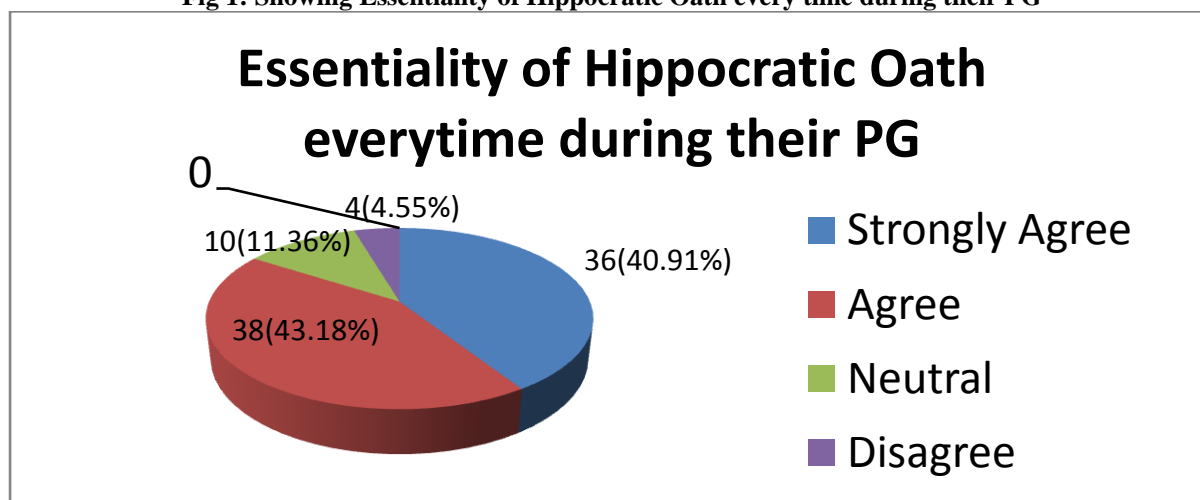
55(62.50%) students were strongly agreed for the Objectives of the programme, 35 (39.77%) were strongly agreed for Sessions according to the work profile, 50 (56.82%) strongly agreed for the time maintenance of sessions, 56 (63.64%) strongly agreed for the relevance of the topics in their routine work; 64 (72.73%) were strongly agreed for the discussed skills in the orientation programme regarding the Objective of the programme met & Sessions according to the work profile; 53 (60.23%) were strongly agreed for the use of medical ethics in their professional carrier; 48 (54.55%) were strongly agreed for regarding their Skills to improve for better doctor patients relationship in their work place for patients would improve Doctor patients relationships. (Table 2)

**Table 2: Evaluation of orientation session:**

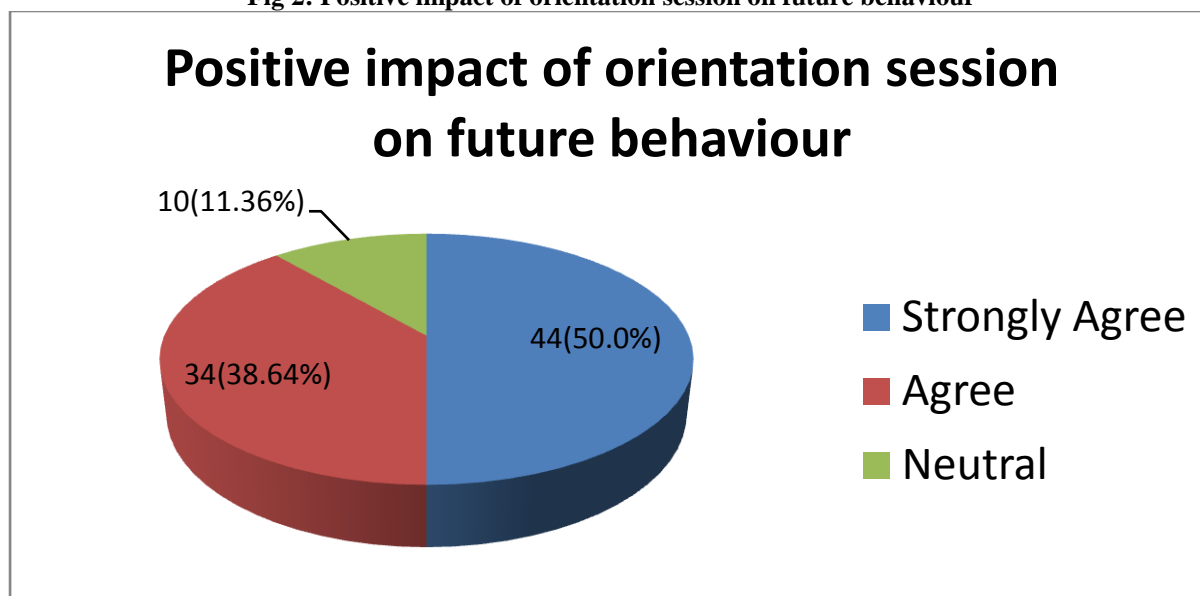
Sr. No.	Evaluation of orientation session	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
A*	Objective of the programme met	2(2.27)	31(35.23)	55(62.50)	88
B*	Sessions according to the work profile	6 (6.82)	47 (53.41)	35 (39.77)	88
C	Time maintenance of sessions	2 (2.27)	36 (40.91)	50 (56.82)	88
D	Relevance of the topics in their routine work	0 (0.00)	32 (36.36)	56 (63.64)	88
E	Utilizing the discussed skills would improve their A* & B*	3 (3.41)	21 (23.86)	64 (72.73)	88
F	Use of medical ethics in their professional carrier	2 (2.27)	33 (37.50)	53 (60.23)	88
G	Skills would improve Doctor patients relationships	4 (4.55)	36 (40.91)	48 (54.55)	88

Nearly 40% were strongly agreed for the Essentiality of Hippocratic Oath to be recalled in their PG career. Half of the participants (50%) strongly agreed with the Positive impact for future conduction of such orientation session (Fig:1 & Fig:2).

**Fig 1: Showing Essentiality of Hippocratic Oath every time during their PG**



**Fig 2: Positive impact of orientation session on future behaviour**



#### IV. Discussion:

Our study suggested that the conduction of orientation programme for Postgraduates, before their Residency, significantly changes their knowledge and attitude towards patient care. Interactive sessions help to provide an informal environment for postgraduates to raise questions, and hold discussions with their colleagues

and teachers to allay their fears and anxieties; this makes for active participation, which was necessary, since the objectives of any training programme cannot be achieved unless the participants involve themselves actively. With the advancement in medical education and efforts of NMC to make teaching programs student-oriented, the medical colleges had now started organizing orientation programs at various levels of the program with an aim to familiarize the students with the Communication Skills, Breaking Bad News, Medical Death Certificate, Medication Error, Medical ethics and Medicolegal issue in health care and record keeping.

The majority of the students graded the Foundation Programme of the undergraduates as a very good program and none of the students felt that it was poor or unsatisfactory as found by Mittal. et. al. and all the students felt that the foundation programme was useful. In our study also Half of the participants (50%) were strongly agree with Positive impact of orientation session on future behaviour. In previous study conducted by Singh. et. al.<sup>6</sup> cited that the feedback response very clearly indicated the extent of satisfaction on the part of the Students. Such a structured foundation course would help students coming from a very different learning environment to cope with the vast body of knowledge and skills required in the dynamic and rapidly changing healthcare system as in our study, feedback from postgraduates helped us to overcome short comings and do further such orientation programmes in their future.

### **V. Conclusion:**

The students viewed the various factors and topics that facilitated learning and the topics were good, good presentations, experienced speakers and interactive faculty. The current medical education should make this transition of post graduates from undergraduates to practising doctor's smoother. This orientation programme laid a strong foundation for better understanding and learning and it should be integrated in the medical curriculum.

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Nil.

### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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