

EFFECTIVENESS OF STRUCTURED TRAINING ON THE POSTGRADUATE EXAM RESULTS

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the impact of structured training and educational strategies on the postgraduate exam results in medicine residency programme

METHODS: Several interventions were done to improve the quality of the programme from 1998 to date. They included structural improvement in the programme, academic enhancement, and regular courses, exams and appreciations

RESULTS: A total of 96 candidates graduated from medicine residency from 1989 to 2004. Out of 96, 62 (64.5%) candidates have cleared their postgraduate exams. Seventy-one (73.9%) candidates graduated before 2001 and 25 (26.1%) candidates graduated after 2001. Of the 25 recent graduates, 21 (84%) have cleared their postgraduate exams, whereas of the 71 earlier graduates, 41 (57.7%) have cleared their exams (odds ratio; 3.84). The number of candidates passing the examination on either their first or second attempt after 2001 was 19/21 (90.47%), in comparison 20/41 (48.78%) prior to 2001. The number of graduates passing the examination after three or more attempts after 2001 was 2/21 (9.52%), in comparison with 21/41 (51.2%) prior to 2001 (odds ratio; 9.97). Additionally, from 2002 to 2004, 100% of the candidates cleared their examination on the first two attempts.

CONCLUSION: We witnessed a significant improvement in the postgraduate examination results of the candidates who had gone through structured training. Furthermore they required fewer attempts to pass the examination as compared to previous candidates. We therefore recommend that a residency programme should incorporate extensive structured interactive learning opportunities. There need to be rigorous systems of regular periodic assessment of the resident, faculty and the program.

Keyword: Structured training, Postgraduate, Medicine residency