

EVALUATION OF AN INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE FAMILY MEDICINE TO UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS

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Objectives: Family Medicine is an integral aspect of ambulatory care & public health education. The family medicine programme for 3rd year medical students at the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo, Sri Lanka was initiated on reflection of this need. Our study evaluates the above programme to identify its strengths and weaknesses.

Methods: Several curricular documents were reviewed, programme objectives compared with faculty objectives and tabulated according to type and level of educational competency. Alignment of content and teaching/ learning methods with objectives were blueprinted.

Concurrently, student perceptions were obtained by a self administered pre tested questionnaire and focus group discussion (FGD). The questionnaire was distributed to students who completed the programme (n=26, response rate 100%) and perceptions on overview, content and expected competencies were assessed. Later the FGD was held (n=21) and data recorded verbatim and analyzed.

Results: The programme objectives encompassed most objectives of the ~~medical~~ course but did not specify levels of competency. The content covered