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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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WHY MALE FEMALE RATIO IS UNBALANCED AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS?

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Background: In every field gender representation is a main factor noted commonly. Globally the gender difference is closely watched by the researchers. Because the global trend in gender variation in each field is changing significantly for last two decades. More women getting into Politics, Law, Medicine, Economics have open numerous opportunities for women.

Objectives: To assess the factors that causing increasing number of females in medical faculties and checking the awareness among medical students about this unbalance male:female ratio.

Methods: This was a cross sectional descriptive study conducted among medical students of Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Data was collected through interviewer administered questionnaire. Sampling method is systematic random sampling. From each batch according to the index number, every other student was selected.

Results: Of the total of 148 students, 40.13% were males and 59.86% were females. Of the very common reasons influencing field selection, A/L results 34.5%, family influence 20.3%, salary & facility 3.4%, social status & respect 12.8% and rendering a service to community 23%. The awareness among students that there is a male:female ratio unbalance is high among both genders 94.6%. The 55% of samples responded that unbalanced male:female ratio will affect the future of medical field positively.

Conclusion: Higher number of females in medical field is not because of the representation of the general population male:female ratio. Most of the medical students have chose the medical field due to their advance level results. Which shows lack of passion among students. The factors deciding the field selection and factors influencing advanced level exam result are the main contributory to the gender imbalance.

Keywords: medical students, gender imbalance, general population