

Original Research Article

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2394-6040.ijcmph20214576>

Satisfaction with life among MBBS students and resident doctors of a tertiary hospital in South Delhi

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Received: 19 October 2021

Revised: 17 November 2021

Accepted: 18 November 2021

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ABSTRACT

Background: When doctors are not satisfied with their lives, their dissatisfaction may reflect on their performance at their workplace. The objective was to determine subjective well-being and level of satisfaction among MBBS students and resident doctors.

Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out using stratified random sampling among 1st professional year MBBS students and resident doctors of a tertiary care teaching hospital, New Delhi. Satisfaction with life scale (SWLS) was used to evaluate the level of satisfaction with life in the study population. Data was analyzed with SPSS version 21.

Results: It was seen that 76% of 1st prof. MBBS Students and 68% of resident doctors were satisfied with their life. The major determining factors of satisfaction with life among 1st prof. MBBS students were 'choosing MBBS course' (72%) and hostel accommodation and food (69%). The major determining factors among the resident doctors were 'choosing medical profession' (67%), working in a reputed institute (82%) and satisfaction with income (78%).

Conclusions: Though a majority of Students and Doctors were found to be satisfied with their lives around one fourth of students (24%) and one third of doctors (32%) were found not to be. It is important to address the predictors of satisfaction to improve the overall quality of life of doctors and MBBS students.

Keywords: Satisfaction with life, Resident doctors, Medical students

INTRODUCTION

The objectives of the study were to determine subjective well-being and satisfaction among 1st professional year MBBS students and resident doctors and to compare the subjective well-being and satisfaction among 1st professional MBBS students and resident doctors.

Satisfaction with life is not a measure of happiness towards life but of attitude towards life and subjective

well-being.¹ Life dissatisfaction has shown to have an effect on the risk of suicide, which also makes this a composite health indicator.² The relevance of the study Satisfaction with Life lies in the role which it plays in several strata of life. It is very important for a person to be satisfied with his/her life as its absence may show itself in some negative form in the Person's work performance and health and it can also affect a person's ability to function at his fullest capacity and can thus reduce the work outcome.³

Mental disorders not only affect the adult population but is also persistent in the student population, with many realizing the need for medical attention but continue without any treatment with their regular social life which in majority of the students has the influence of drugs and alcohol.^{4,5} Medical university students in particular have many stressors associated with their lives during their undergraduate training and a significant number turn to alcohol and drug use for pleasure and relaxation or as an escape from the constant stress.⁶ Symptoms of depression and suicidal thoughts are on rise among members of medical profession who themselves have to treat people and help achieve the goal of positive health which is important for any community.⁷ Satisfaction with life in the medical population is thought to be influenced by a variety of factors which needs to be assessed.

METHODS

A cross sectional study was carried out from April 2019 to September 2019 among 1st professional MBBS students and the Resident doctors in a tertiary care teaching hospital in New Delhi using stratified sampling technique. The sample size was taken as 200 (100 students and 100 resident doctors). The participants who were willing to A self-administered semi-structured questionnaire along with satisfaction with life scale (SWLS) was used to evaluate the level of satisfaction with life in the study population after obtaining their consent. Data was compiled on a MS-Excel sheet and was analysed with SPSS version 21.0. Various statistical analysis tests were also employed to find association between variables and results.

RESULTS

The mean (SD) age of the students was 18(±2) and of the resident doctors was 28(±3). Majority of the students were from Delhi and majority of the resident doctors were from other stations (Table 1). Among MBBS students the overall satisfaction was 76% and among the resident doctors, 68% were satisfied with life (Table 2).

Multiple options

The factors determining the satisfaction was varied among students and resident doctors. For students, the factors were choosing the professional course, academic environment and clinical learning. For the resident doctors, the common factors were working in reputed institute, relationship with family and friends and accommodation as well as food (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

The present study was done to find the life satisfaction among medical students and resident doctors working in a tertiary care hospital. The present study revealed a majority of the first year MBBS students (76%) and

Resident doctors (68%) are satisfied with life based on the SWLS (satisfaction with life scale).

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of the study population (n=200).

Variable	Distribution	MBBS Students (n=100)	Resident doctors (n=100)
Age (years)	<20	71 (71)	0 (0)
	20-25	28 (28)	8 (8)
	25-30	1 (1)	76 (76)
	>30	0 (0)	16 (16)
	Total	100	100
Gender	Male	63 (63)	69 (69)
	Female	37 (37)	31 (31)
	Total	100	100
Residence	Delhi	55 (55)	43 (43)
	Outside Delhi	45 (45)	57 (57)
	Total	100	100
Present residence	Hostel	43 (43)	15 (15)
	Rented House	2 (2)	59 (59)
	Parent's House	52 (52)	17 (17)
	Own House	3 (3)	9 (9)
	Total	100	100
Relationship status	Single	96 (96)	52 (52)
	Married	0 (0)	33 (33)
	In a Relationship ⁸	4 (4)	15 (15)
	Separated	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	100	100

A slightly more percentage of 1st Prof. MBBS Students were satisfied with their lives than resident doctors. Similar studies revealed results that a majority of the doctors were satisfied with their lives.^{8,9}

Though a majority of them are satisfied with their life, the number of those who aren't is still a disturbing percentage. To find that almost one third of the doctors to be not satisfied with their lives would reflect on their job. As job satisfaction is a potent motivator.¹⁰ And about one fourth of the students being dissatisfied would mean that they also would not be able to perform well in their studies and also have a chance to end up with mental health problems including addictions.¹¹

Some of the important factors for dissatisfaction being work/study burden for the participants (43%), Relationship with colleagues and friends being the second (35.7%). This can be addressed by increasing the work force to reduce the work load among doctors or can even increase the pay for them. Another study suggests similar options for problems faced by doctors.¹¹ Necessary motivation and group sessions can be conducted to reduce the students' burden.

Table 2: Satisfaction with life among the participants (n=200).

Variables	N (%)
MBBS students	
Satisfied with life	76 (36)
Dissatisfied	24 (12)
Resident doctors	
Satisfied with life	68 (34)
Dissatisfied	32 (16)
Factors for dissatisfaction* (n=56)	
Work burden/ study burden	24 (43)
Working/learning environment	10 (18)
Facilities of the campus	4 (7)
Relationship with colleagues/friends	20 (35.7)
Relationship with family	16 (28.5)

*Multiple options

Table 3: Determining factors of life satisfaction among the study population.

Variables	N (%)
Satisfaction factors for MBBS students (n=100)	
Choosing the MBBS course	72 (72)
Studying in a reputed institute	70 (70)
Learning environment	69 (69)
Faculty teaching and clinical learning	68 (68)
Hostel accommodation and food	69 (69)
Relationship with family and friends	63 (63)
Satisfaction factors for resident doctors (n=100)	
Choosing the Medical profession as career	67 (67)
Working in a reputed institute	82 (82)
Work environment and facilities	65 (65)
Hands on and clinical learning	63 (63)
Resident quarters accommodation and food	72 (72)
Relationship with family and friends	70 (70)

The major determining factors of satisfaction with life among 1st Prof. MBBS students were 'choosing MBBS course' (72%) and quality of hostel mess food and living in hostel (69%). The major determining factors among the resident doctors were 'choosing medical profession' (67%), working in a reputed institute (82%) and satisfaction with income (78%). The Medical profession is seen as one of the most noble and valued profession not only in India but all over the world, which can be a very good motivating factor to improve the life satisfaction in both students and junior doctors.¹² The other factors being a component of job satisfaction could mean that there is an association between the job satisfaction and life satisfaction.

Limitations

The limitation of the study is that it is conducted in a government central institute which could not be generalized to other institutes with different academic environment and learning.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that majority of the medicos are satisfied with their life and that many factors are responsible for this. One factor alone cannot be fully responsible for the satisfaction or dissatisfaction towards life, it is multi-factorial as other studies have pointed out as well, regarding the satisfaction levels. More research can be done to find out more about possible association between the levels of satisfaction and these determining factors using this study as a precursor.

Funding: No funding sources

Conflict of interest: None declared

Ethical approval: The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee

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Cite this article as: Singh A, Singh N, Dixit S, Kaur S, Chellaiyan VG, Alfred J. Satisfaction with life among MBBS students and resident doctors of a tertiary hospital in South Delhi. Int J Community Med Public Health 2021;8:5843-6.