

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

DOI: 10.26727/NJRCM.2021.10.2.045-050

Year: 2021 Vol: 10 Issue: 2. Apr.-Jun. Page: 045-050

Perception, Readiness and Preferred Training Methods on Bioethics as Emerging Medical Professionals-An Explorative study from Tamil Nadu

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Date of Submission : 18-02-2021

Date of online Publication : 30-06-2021

Date of Acceptance : 15-03-2021

Date of Print Publication : 30-06-2021

ABSTRACT

Context: Indian medical graduate is envisioned to possess adequate knowledge on bioethics as reiterated in the code of ethics, a regulatory document for professional conduct, etiquette and ethics of doctors by Medical Council of India (MCI). **Aims:** To describe the awareness on medical bioethics among trainee interns and junior residents and elicit characteristics for effective training methodologies on bioethics at tertiary medical teaching hospitals across Tamil Nadu. **Settings and designs:** Mixed methodology using cross-sectional survey in combination with pile sorting, free listing exercises followed by in-depth interviews to generate rich qualitative inputs. **Methods:** Google Forms survey was designed, and link was disseminated using social affinity groups and snowballing techniques through social media. Data was analyzed using MS Excel for quantitative survey and Visual Anthropac4.98.1/X software for pile sorting and free listing exercises and manual content analysis for interviews. **Results:** Among 135 respondents for online survey from across 25 medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, 57.5% were females, 42.2% had training on bioethics and 54.4% during internship period. Experts conducted training for only 34% of participants. Cluster analysis identified communication skills, personality traits, and medico-legal interface as the major areas of focus for bioethics training and majority favoured a combination of curriculum-based and self-directed learning through online modules, and immersive-blended portals like TEDx styled talks with experts as innovative methodologies for training on bioethics. **Conclusions:** Novel and participatory training methodologies are favoured in imparting training to enhance bioethics preparedness among emerging medical professionals.

Key word: Bioethics, medical professional, code of ethics, internship, curriculum

Nat.J.Res.Com.Med. 2021; 10(2). © Community Medicine Faculties Association-2021