

Title: Evaluation of Team Training Program as one of the strategies of Community Based medical Education of Jimma University.

Author: Solomon Genet, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia.

Key words: team training, community based medical education, program evaluation

Background: Community Based Education (CBE) is the educational philosophy of Jimma University. Team Training Program (TTP) is one of the strategies of CBE that has been adopted in the curriculum of training of health professionals. The program has never been evaluated to date. Therefore, this project was proposed to make a proper evaluation of the program and identify the merits and demerits of the program and recommend possible changes in strategy and the curriculum

Methods: A pre-tested structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to students and faculty who participated in the TTP in different occasions. The questionnaire was designed in such a way that it contains open-ended questions with open-ended questions for comments and suggestions regarding the program. Open ended questions were designed in relation to the objectives of the TTP when it was initially designed 16 years ago. In addition personal interviews were made to some of the stakeholders and community members. The data obtained was analyzed by using SPSS.

Results: The results showed that students and faculty are knowledgeable about TTP but only half of student respondents agreed it helped them identify health problems. There was a decline in the interest towards TTP by faculty despite appreciation of objectives. Supervision was good but community participation and interventions were poor. Collaboration between community leaders, stakeholders and the university was poor. Most students noted problem in the student performance assessment. Respondents enumerated transport, and other logistic problems. Supervisors have noticed poor team formation and collaboration between students.

Conclusions: Some work must be done to improve the disinterest among faculty and collaboration between the University, stakeholders and the community must be strengthened. For good team formation of students strategies must be worked out. To make TTP sustainable, fundraising and support methods need to be vitalized. Logistic problems must be sorted out and acknowledgement schemes must be developed to boost the morale of participants.

Acknowledgements: The Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) is acknowledged for the scholarship opportunity and Jimma University for supporting the project.