

Title: Establishment of a medical education department at Misurata Faculty of Medicine, Libya

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Background: Misurata Medical School has no identified center or department of medical education. All over the world, the role of medical education departments is faculty development and graduation of efficient, safe doctors.

Aim of the project: To get permission to establish the first Medical Education Department in Libya.

Methods: Qualitative study (personal interviews) to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge, and explain why and how the medical education department will help in faculty development and organizational change. First, to target stakeholders and decision makers, the researcher met the Dean to explain the need to develop the project (Feb 2015). Second, under the Dean's supervision, the researcher conducted a session to explain the project to the President of University of Misurata, and teaching staff (20 attendants), followed by open discussion. Third, 10 in-depth interviews conducted between the researcher and the Heads of Units, to explore their attitude towards the development of the department.

Results: The President of Misurata University and Dean gave their permission to project implementation (April 2015) after obtaining the permission of Higher Education Ministry Office. They promised to allocate resources for project implementation.

Faculty members participated in interviews, in general perceived that a medical educational department can achieve short- and long-term goals ranging from faculty development (curricula design, student assessment, etc.), continuing medical education, professional development, and education research. They perceived enhancement of educational process quality.

Conclusion: Decision-makers and faculty members have positive views that the project is likely to introduce changes beneficial to educational process, faculty development, and educational research.