



Attitude towards Psychiatry among Saudi Northern Border Medical Students; before and after the Psychiatry Module

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INTRODUCTION

The attitude towards psychiatry is of pivotal importance as the undergraduate medical students are going to be involved in the healthcare delivery of patients with mental disorders whether directly or indirectly in their future careers.

AIM

The aim of the study is to assess the attitudes of Northern Border University (NBU) medical students towards Psychiatry before and after psychiatric education and training module.

OBJECTIVES of the Study

General Objective:

To study the attitudes towards psychiatry among northern border medical students; before and after being exposed to the Psychiatry module, in their fifth year of the curriculum.

Specific Objectives:

1. To assess the attitudes of NBU medical students towards Psychiatry before and after psychiatric education and training module.
2. To examine the effect of the psychiatric training clerkship on these attitudes.
3. To examine some sociodemographic variables' relation to attitude change.
4. To find out the association between medical students' attitude towards Psychiatry in those who have past or family history of psychiatric disorders.

METHODS

It was a cross-sectional institution-based study that was carried out at Alamal Complex For Mental Health (ACMH) in Ar'ar among 5th year NBU medical students.

Total coverage of students was done.

The study used a self rated socio-demographic data questionnaire and the "Attitudes Toward Psychiatry-30 items" (ATP-30) scale before and after the psychiatry module.

Sixty eight medical students were included.

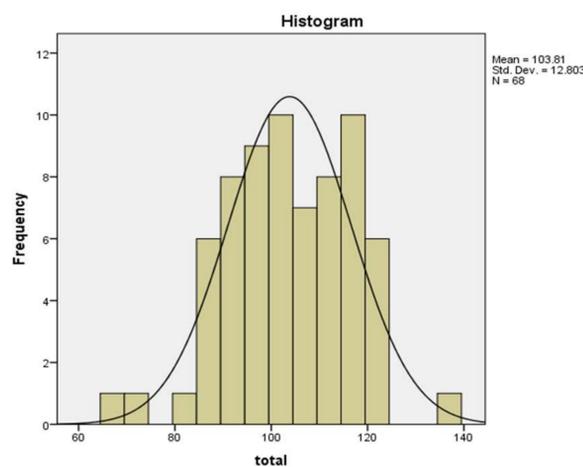
The data was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

X2 statistic and parametric statistic were used to analyze categorical and numerical variables respectively.

P value < 0.05 was considered as level of significance.

(Figure No; 1):

Distribution of students ATP-30 Scores before the Psychiatry module:



RESULTS

The results showed that there is no significant change in the ATP-30 total scores before and after Psychiatry Module (P value = 0.288). However, it was essentially positive before starting the module.

No significant association was found between the positive total score and the socio-demographic factors; gender, origin, marital status, and economic levels of the students and their academic performance, family history of psychiatric illness or past psychiatric history.

Prior contact with psychiatric patients was found to have a significant association with the positive attitude before starting undergraduate learning (P-Value = 0.048).

Additionally it revealed association with more positive attitude towards psychiatric knowledge and teaching after the module (P-Value = 0.012) with the male students having more positive attitude towards psychiatry and psychiatrists than females (P-Value = 0.004).

Moreover, it revealed an association with more positive attitude towards psychiatric patients and illness among students with prior contact with patients (P-Value = 0.023).

CONCLUSION

The total ATP-30 was favorable before and after the module with significantly more positive attitude towards psychiatric knowledge and teaching, psychiatric patients and illness, and finally towards psychiatry and psychiatrists among male students

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