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Emergency Medicine Interest Groups and Paediatrics Emergency teachings: A case of Mbarara University of Science and Technology Emergency Medicine Interest Group (MUST-EMIG) in Uganda

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Background

Emergency medicine (EM) is a new specialty in Uganda and there is currently no formal EM undergraduate curriculum. The Mbarara University of Science and Technology Emergency Medicine Interest Group (MUST-EMIG) was established to bridge this gap.

The creation of a link between MUST-EMIG and the paediatric education group, 'Don't Forget the Bubbles' (DFTB) allowed the expansion of our programme to include emergency paediatric teaching from a variety of international sources.

This survey was done to assess the impact of the paediatric emergencies teaching programme, and to explore the strengths and limitations of this innovative international teaching programme.

Aims

1. To elicit feedback from students on their experiences with MUST-EMIG paediatrics teachings.
2. To explore whether international teaching via online platforms was accessible and applicable to our student population.

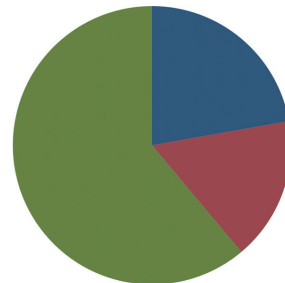
Methods

The MUST-EMIG executive committee developed a membership survey on paediatrics teachings offered by MUST-EMIG. Members of MUST-EMIG were voluntarily asked to participate in the online survey. The results of the survey were summarised using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. 9 paediatrics teachings have been freely provided to students including 3 DFTB courses, 1 DFTB conference, 4 webinars from 5 DFTB facilitators, and 1 in-person adolescent paediatrics workshop. On average we have 25-35 EMIG students who attend our activities (virtual or in-person).

Results

- 27 responses were collected and analysed, with students from every year of medical school responding, 21 (77.8%) male and 6 (22.2%) female medical students. Students aged <20 years (14, 51.9%), and those in their fifth- and second-year of medical school had the highest preponderance of participation.
- All students believed teachings from international facilitating emergency paediatricians applied to their settings.

Preferred Paediatrics Emergencies Teaching Method



- 19 (70.4%) preferred a combination of hands-on and didactic/theory modes of teaching, DFTB's Paediatrics trauma 2021 course was the most attended event followed by the paediatrics basic airway management webinar and workshop.
- Students were extremely keen for further teaching sessions to be organized on mostly non-trauma topics.
- Challenges encountered by students have included mostly internet-related challenges such as poor network connection, and lack of mobile data or internet access.
- The majority of the students reported having positive experiences with our paediatrics teachings including attainment of confidence in handling emergencies (e.g asthma), and skills (e.g mechanical ventilation, CPR) for use while on the paediatrics emergency call at their teaching hospital.

Word salad for other paediatric topics that students would like to be covered in the future.



Conclusion

- MUST-EMIG has greatly helped medical students acquire paediatrics emergency care skills and knowledge.
- The use of online platforms has allowed MUST-EMIG to access teaching from a wide variety of international speakers.
- Feedback from students suggests that this is relevant to their practice and felt to be of value in complementing practical teaching.
- In the future, MUST-EMIG hopes to expand its paediatric teaching programme and avail of opportunities to gain valuable insights from more lecturers across the globe.

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