

Are Teachers Ready to Change in Response to Digitalization Challenges in Medical Education? – 360 Degree Assessment of the Teachers

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Aim

In the era of the 4th industrial revolution, medical students have opportunity to access a huge and diverse amount of medical literature even outside the library and even without the teachers. Meanwhile, according to the different statistics, the teachers actively involved in the education of the modern medical students, are born in the era before internet and information technologies. The requirements and the roles of the medical teachers are dramatically changing over decades and in order to follow the modern challenges of IT technologies, teachers need to upgrade their skills daily. Covid-19 pandemic made this challenge even more prominent.

Methodology

A survey was conducted to explore the readiness to changes in response to digitalization of medical teachers via multisource feedback (MSF) at Ken Walker International University and Tbilisi State Medical University.

The questionnaire was sent to the students, faculty, and administration. Meanwhile, a similar questionnaire was provided to the teachers for self-assessment.

Summary

The average age of the teachers included in the survey was 38.8 (± 5.6) y/o.

Based on the students' feedback – 100% of the teachers possess basic computer skills (BCS), 87% is familiar with advanced computer skills (ACS); however, 15.3% use digital technologies in their everyday teaching practice.

According to the faculty, teachers are equipped with the ACS (100%); however, according to the administration survey, approximately 20% are collaborative while implementing new technologies.

Cross-checking the results with the self-assessment, teachers possess ACS skills (100%) and are ready to implement more digital technologies in their practice (91%).

Conclusion

Using information technologies in everyday teaching practice will increase the motivation and scientific curiosity of the technology-submerged generation of students.

According to the MSF, teachers possess Basic and Advanced Computer Skills (BCS/ACS), and in self-assessment, they report regarding the readiness to implement new technologies in their teaching. However, they still face difficulties using the technologies in their everyday teaching practice.

In-depth research is necessary to determine the skills and attitudes of medical teachers to address the real needs of the digital era.