



# Should medical students learn the principles of health service management?

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## BACKGROUND:

- A new course Challenges in Health Service Management, developed under the coordinator of the school of Public Health, offers an opportunity to MBBS Y5 students to become more aware of the role of health service management and leadership in health care service delivery.
- Case studies and Team based learning (TBL) are used to introduce the basic managerial principles necessary for young doctors in their future professional role such as resources allocation, change management, prioritisation and team building.



**AIM:** To evaluate the course effectiveness

## Method:

- (1) Self-perceived rating was used to evaluate teaching and learning effectiveness and acquisition of core competences in health service management.
- (2) MBBS Year 5 (N=211) students were assessed based on: individual readiness assurance test and group discussions using grade descriptors



## Results:

	Pass (50%-79%)	Distinction (80%-100%)
Case 1	35%	65%
Case 2	42.5%	57.5%
Case 3	21%	79%
Case 4	26%	74%
Quiz 1	7%	93%
Quiz 2	6%	94%

Teaching and learning (% of strongly agree and agree)			
Seminar was helpful in acquiring knowledge and skills needed for health care management	65	The tutor provided me with the timely and helpful feedback	67
I was intellectually stimulated and inspired by the lecturer	71	Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of this Management course	69
The tutorial developed my problem solving skills.	67	Case 1 is useful in learning about principles of health care management	69
The tutorial sharpened my analytic skills.	71	Case 2 is useful in learning about principles of health care management	69
The tutorial helped me to develop my ability to work in a group.	67	Case 3 is useful in learning about principles of health care management	67
The tutor was effective in helping me to achieve the tutorial learning outcome	67	Case 4 is useful in learning about principles of health care management	64

Self-perceived improvement of competences:	Strongly agree or agree (%)	Strongly disagree or disagree (%)
Engaging in team work to discuss principles of health care management or leadership	55	4
Planning strategies for health care services	49	6
Planning and managing resources in health care	41	6
Analysis of situation that requires health care management knowledge and skills	53	4
Analysis of situation that requires health care management knowledge and skills	53	4
Acquiring professional management skills needed to solve a problem in health care	51	4
Recognition of team work in ensuring quality health care service delivery	54	4

**Comments:**

- The time spent on each of case may be too short and discussion is too rushed
- The marshmallow challenge was something new and it was a good thing to include.
- More scenarios and interactions could be included
- I would like to learn more about the real context of HK, eg HA budgeting, that would be much more helpful
- Worldload is too heavy
- More cases could be arranged
- More interactive tasks like spaghetti tower building!

## CONCLUSION:

- Although the management course increased the MBBS students' ability to address health service management issues, further training will be needed to gain a confidence in solving problems in health care management.
- Empowering students with management principles and skills will enable them to adapt and tackle future challenges in health care service.

