



Retrospective Monocentric Study on Career Preferred by Ayurveda Alumni

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Alumni studies are considered valuable as such works are done to assess the outcomes of efforts made by faculties of relevant organization and its actual effect in professional life. These studies serve as source of information to increase the effectiveness of related organization and thereby students quality of education.

Aim and Objective: The study was centered on exploring the quality and impact of teaching-learning modalities on career proffered by alumni.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective monocentric cohort study was conducted at Mahatma Gandhi Ayurved College, Hospital and Research Centre (MGACHRC), Salod (H), Wardha (Maharashtra) from 2007 batch to 2012 BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) batch which include total 281 Alumni who has completed BAMS course from MGACHRC. The survey was done by using a questionnaire and responses were collected via receiving filled questionnaire via email or filling the questionnaire through telephonic communication with alumni.

Results: The survey study revealed that after completing graduation from MGACHRC, the career chosen by alumni of 2007 to 2013 batches include post graduation (PG), working as faculty in other institute, established general clinical practice (GP), joined as medical officer in government or private hospitals (Govt. MO, Private MO) and engaged in other activities such as business,

profession other than medical services, become research researcher etc and the percentages of alumni in aforementioned career are 43.42, 8.54, 21.00, 9.96, 12.10 and 4.98 respectively. Higher proportion of females is noted in all batches and most of the alumni gave preference for post graduation followed by clinical practice and occupation as medical officer either in government or private hospitals.

Conclusion: The study represents that obtaining specialization is not possible by completing BAMS and hence post graduation is first preference. However the all careers chosen by alumni of MGACHRC are satisfactory and thus indicate well teaching-learning methods.

Keywords: Alumni; career; ayurveda; teaching-learning methods.

1. INTRODUCTION

The role of admissions in medical education is to successfully execute medical education courses through preselected competent faculties based on specific criteria as well as to develop skills necessary to assume role of scholars as future physicians [1]. A large number of studies have examined reasons why medical students choose the career paths they do. These include influences that occur before a student enters medical school, such as background and demographic factors, [2-3] gender [4] entrance scores [5] and attitudes [6-8]. Personality traits of students have also been considered as possible influences on their career choices [9-13]. Education is path towards specific career and the teaching-learning methodologies adopted at various educational organizations, greatly affect the intellectual development and thereby career achievements of scholars. In other words, the efforts made by teachers can be measured in the form of proffered careers by alumni.

Medical profession is viewed with great scope and as a path of insuring successful career. However it is undeniable that except establishing clinical practice and post graduation, the other scopes in medical education are not much known to scholars. This is highly applicable in context of Ayurveda- an Indian system of medicine (ISM). Recent studies has highlighted the errors in standard of most Ayurveda educational organization and has expressed major concerns regarding future of Ayurveda scholars [14]. Attempt to implement few accreditation systems such as National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH), Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) etc has been made in India and few Ayurveda universities has achieved these accreditations. Mahatma Gandhi Ayurved College, Hospital and

Research Centre (MGACHRC), Salod (H), Wardha (Maharashtra) is under Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed to be University) which is accredited by NAAC grade A+ as well as NABH.

It has been noted that till date, no work has been conducted to access the career preferred by Ayurveda alumni. Such work is needed to understand the standard of teaching-learning methods followed at an organization and its actual contribution in successful career of alumni. Therefore a retrospective monocentric cohort study was done at MGACHRC and the present work is an attempt to generalize the findings of the work.

2. METHODOLOGY

A Retrospective monocentric cohort study was conducted on Alumni of MGACHRC from 2007 batch to 2012 batch. During this period, total 281 alumni had completed their BAMS and registered in Maharashtra council of Indian medicine. All these alumni were included in this study.

A questionnaire was prepared and shared via E-mail to the identified alumni. In case of no reply of email, telephonic communications was done to fill the questionnaire. An alumni meet was planned for all those who can attend it at MGACHRC and personal interview was taken during the alumni meet.

3. OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Total 281 alumni from batch 2007- 2012 have responded to this survey study which includes 90 male and 191 female alumni. (Fig 1) The distribution of career choice made by male alumni indicates more preference to post graduation (PG), followed by medical officer (MO) at government or private hospital and general practice (GP). (Table 1) Similar

observation is noted for the career preference by female alumni (Table 2). The comparative view of professional distribution among studied batches shows more number of female than male alumni which includes PG (N=122, M-49,

F,73), Faculty (N=24, M-9, F-15), GP (N=59, M-12, F-47), Govt. MO (N=28, M-9, F-19), Private MO (N=34, M-9, F-25) and Other (N=14, M-2, F-12) (Fig 2).

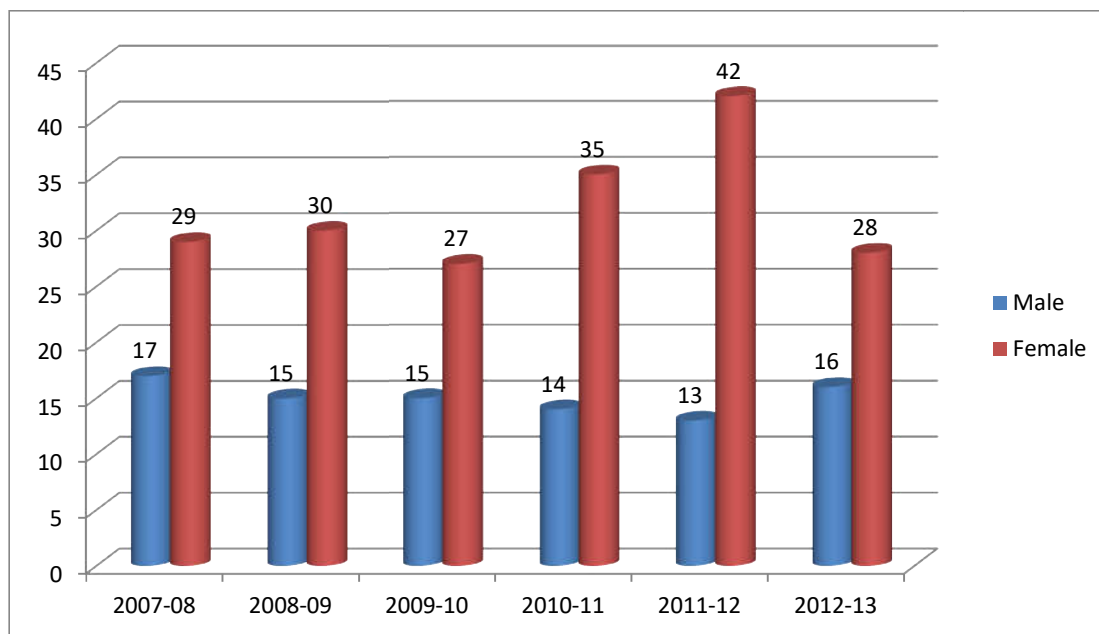


Fig. 1. Batch wise distribution of Male (90) and Female (191) Alumni (n=281)

Table 1. Distribution of male alumni

Batch	PG	Faculty	GP	MO		Other	Total
				Government Hospital	Private Hospital		
2007-08	07	5	3	2	0	0	17
2008-09	07	3	2	1	1	1	15
2009-10	10	0	1	2	1	1	15
2010-11	05	1	4	2	2	0	14
2011-12	10	0	1	0	2	0	13
2012-13	10	0	1	2	3	0	16
Total	49	9	12	9	9	2	90

Table 2. Distribution of female alumni

Batch	PG	Faculty	GP	MO		Other	Total
				Government Hospital	Private Hospital		
2007-08	11	6	6	3	3	0	29
2008-09	10	4	9	2	4	1	30
2009-10	07	4	12	0	2	2	27
2010-11	14	1	11	4	5	0	35
2011-12	19	0	5	8	4	6	42
2012-13	12	0	4	2	7	3	28
Total	73	15	47	19	25	12	191

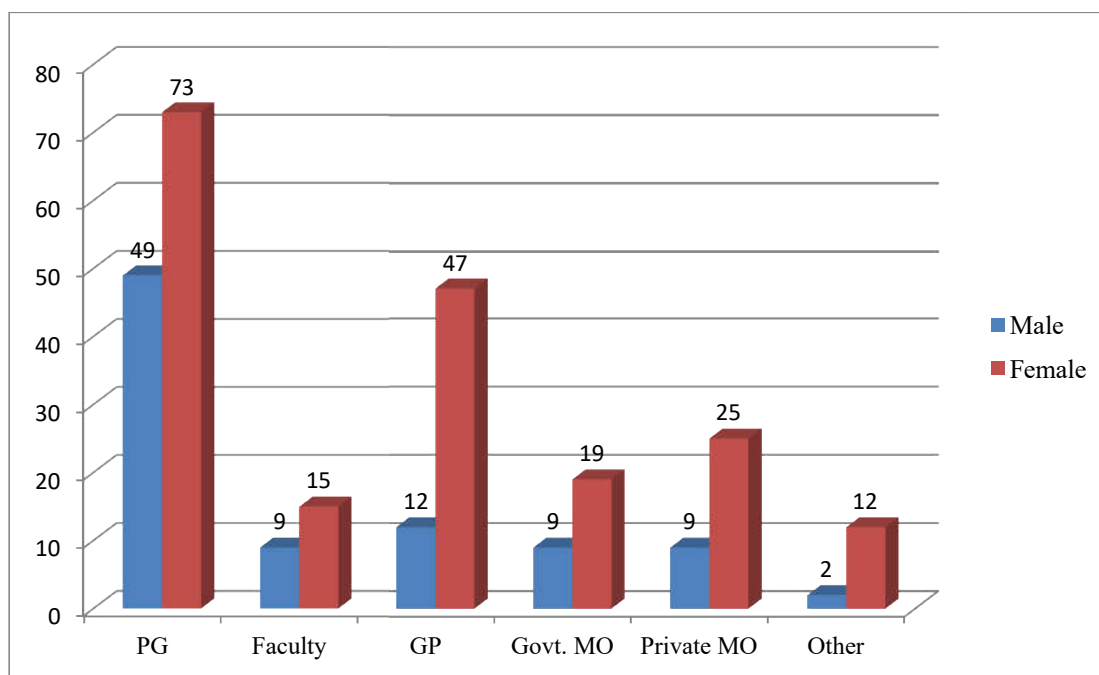


Fig. 2. Comparative professional distribution of alumni

4. DISCUSSION

The central concept of educational organizations is focused on creating of competency through expertise and experience of proficient teachers and not just completing syllabus, conducting exams and accessing scores. Syllabus serve as a guideline for desired knowledge and exams are in fact parameters to judge the level of acquired knowledge. However the current pattern followed in exam in most educational organization can only access textual knowledge and fails to highlight common sense, applied aspects and judgmental skills of the scholar. Thus a survey after completion of graduation can provide significant information as improvement in all the aforementioned attributes of the scholars can be accessed through his/her achievements or chosen path. Concerning Ayurveda educational organizations, the facilities and teaching modalities has been expressed as a matter of concern [15].

Present work is pointing towards the satisfactory progress of all participant alumni. This is clear from their chosen path to provide medical services to the society. However only 38.21% females have continued their education and obtained post graduation degree and this proportion is less compared to male alumni (54.44%). It seems that due to marriage or due

to social issues, still female candidates are facing difficulties in continuing higher educations. The affinity towards post graduation may be because of increased demand of specialization and preference to related specialist for diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The post graduation holders have more opportunity options compared to only graduates and additional diploma holders. The preference to medical officer in government or private hospital may be representative of need to modify teaching-learning modalities to increase the confidence and positive view towards pure Ayurveda clinical practice. The practical nature of Ayurveda is difficult to understand and in order to motivate Ayurveda scholars for pure Ayurveda practice, it is most needed to have a approach for linking theory and practice [16].

A point is clearly notable from the overall view of the survey regarding least chosen path by alumni as researcher. Inclusion of research methodology and medical statistics (RMMS) in Ayurveda curriculum has been done since 2012. The survey study has been done before implementation of RMMS in curriculum. This may be the reason for far less choice of research by the studied alumni. However it is evident that only post graduate degree holders are eligible for getting benefit of the scope of research and related opportunities. Considering the

implementation of research in graduation syllabus, it will be a significant career opportunity increasing mover to declare graduates eligible for research related fields. Similarly one month of internship can also be assigned for research related activity.

Nothing is perfect as there is always something to improve and thus based on the survey it can be claimed that the educational facility as well as teaching-learning modalities [17] adopted at MGACHRC are career boosting. However the extent of this effectiveness is unknown because of lack of similar research on other organization. Present research may serve as torchbearer for similar researches in future and may bring more solid and practical oriented outcomes [18,19].

5. CONCLUSION

The survey of alumni of MGACHRC can serve as a model to establish increasing affinity towards post graduation which is detected in present work. Special attention towards scope and opportunities in RMMS, fellowship, diploma courses need to be given by educational organization as well as central educational authorities. For improving educational quality similar works should be part of annual progress of the educational organizations.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

ETHICAL APPROVAL

Approval was taken from the Institutional ethics committee (Ref.No. DMIMS (DU)/IEC/2018-19/7558, dated 15.10.2018).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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