Impact of Marital Status on Academic Performance of Medical Students

Malik M. Nassan, Mohammad Lucman Anwer, Mohammad Abouammoh, Weaam A. Alshenawy, and PhD. M. Hasan Rajab
Alfaisal University, King Saud University

Introduction

The relationship between marital status and medical student performance is an important concept that has not been well studied in our region.

We will consider the general Islamic definition of marriage which is “A mutual contract between a man and a woman whose goal is for each to enjoy the other, become a pious family and a sound society” (Sheikh Ibn Uthaimen, Alzawaj).1

Objective

To determine the impact of marital status, measured by students’ cumulative GPA, on medical students’ academic performance.

Background

Our literature search resulted in a few studies addressing the relationship between marital status and undergraduate students life. One of these studies entitled, "Undergraduate Students’ Adaptation to College" was conducted in universities in the United States.2 The study concluded that "Married undergraduate students were found to have moderate difficulties adjusting to college, particularly in areas such as becoming involved with other students on campus and feeling connected or attached to the institution they attend".2

A study found that over 40% of residents in the united states reported major marital problems, and 72% attributed these problems to residency training.3

Significance

1. Many schools in the West have academic counseling that deals with issues similar to the one addressed in this article, whereas, here in KSA, schools need to work more on this issue.

2. The education system in the US is different from that in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). For example, the undergraduate students in the US already have a 4-years bachelor degree by the time they are admitted to medicine, whereas the students in the KSA join medical schools immediately after high school, or a year after. Therefore, some of the results in the US can not be applied here.

3. In addition, our literature search showed no publication about the impact of marriage on the medical students in the KSA.

4. Furthermore, because of the cultural and economic differences between the KSA and other countries, we realized the need of having our own characterization study.

Methods

- We have chosen two universities in the city of Riyadh, one is a public university, King Saud University, and the other is a private university, Alfaisal University, to conduct our study.
- This is a prospective study.
- We designed a survey to be sent via Email to male and female medical students of KSU and male students of Alfaisal University.
- The survey will measure the academic performance using the cumulative GPAs before and after marriage.
- Following is the survey:

Bibliography