

The Besrouer Centre for Global Family Medicine

Dr. Patrick Chege Memorial Research Award Poster Presentation

Awareness, Availability and Use of Teaching Aids in Family Medicine Training Centres in West Africa

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Abstract: Introduction: Afriwon research group is concerned with improving education and research in Family Medicine in Africa. This is with a view to expanding the discipline and improving the capabilities of Family Physicians in the region. Considering the need for increased awareness and use of teaching aids and skills acquisition tools in Family Medicine postgraduate training and the fact that though some training centres in West Africa have made concerted efforts to ensure their use, many still have a lot to improve on, we, the members of Afriwon Research Group sought to objectively determine its level of awareness, availability, and use in the sub-region.

Methods: This was a descriptive cross-sectional study involving all consenting Heads of Department and Training Coordinators of all centres with current Family Medicine accreditation in West Africa. The Google link to a questionnaire comprising socio-demographic variables, questions on awareness, availability and use of various teaching aids and skill acquisition tools was sent to the respondents via WhatsApp message. Continuous variables were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation and categorical variables as frequencies and percentages. Chi-square test and logistic regression analysis were used to determine factors associated with and predictors of availability and use of teaching aids/skills acquisition tools.

Results: The response rate was 107(84.3%) from all currently accredited West Africa FM training centres. Their mean age was 54 \pm 7 years; they were predominantly 93(86.9%) certified as trainers. All the respondents felt the use of teaching aids/skills acquisition materials would enhance learning in their departments. However, most were aware and used traditional resources (97.2%) and non-electronic (96.3%) resources. Only 10 (9.3%) respondents had mannequins for training resident doctors.

Conclusion: Most Family Medicine trainers in West Africa are aware and support the use of teaching aids/skills acquisition materials. However, the availability and uptake is currently very low. There is an urgent need for the postgraduate colleges and all stakeholders to look into ways of improving the use of teaching aids/skills acquisition materials in the sub-region.

Keywords: awareness, teaching aids, skills acquisition, west Africa, family medicine