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Short Report

Awareness of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Among Final Year Part-1 MBBS Students of a Teaching Hospital in South India

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ABSTRACT

Background: The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (previously known as National Digital Health Mission)is an agency of the Government of India. The Mission aims to create an integrated healthcare system that will link practitioners and patients digitally by giving them access to real-time health records. Methodology A cross-sectional questionnaire-based study was conducted among the Final Year MBBS part-1 students of Kurnool Medical College, Kurnool after getting approval by the Institutional Ethics Committee. I.E.C. No: -389/2023. Study period of 1 month, conducted in October 2023.The sample size was calculated based on the assumption that 50% of the study population are aware of ABDM, Using the Cochrane formula $4pq/l^2$, where p is 50%, and absolute precision l, of 10%, a sample size of 100 is arrived at. 4x50x50/10x10=10000/100=100. A total of 100 final year part-1 MBBS students participated in this study. A predesigned validated questionnaire containing 25 questions was shared in the student WhatsApp groups using Google forms. Data collected will be analysed by using MS Excel 2016 and SPSS 23. Results This survey based cross-sectional study conducted among 100 students from Final year part-1 MBBS undergraduate students shows 64% of the respondents were in the high performing group, 28% in moderate performing group and 8% in the low performing group. Conclusion The digital documentation of clinical material goes a long way in making assessment valid and also aid in the rating procedures. So, in view of this, every Medical Undergraduate should have idea about the Digital Health Management.

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Introduction

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched in September 2021 by the Government of India and aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. [1] It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.[2]

The health care delivery system in India is evolving, to keep up with the pace of the era of digitalization.[3]ABDM creates a national digital health ecosystem that supports Universal health coverage in an Efficient, Accessible, Inclusive, Affordable, Timely and Safe manner.[4,5]

Materials and methods

A cross-sectional questionnaire-based study was conducted among the Final Year MBBS part-1 students of Kurnool Medical College, Kurnool after getting approval by the Institutional Ethics Committee. I.E.C. No: -389/2023. All the students who have attendance above 75% and willing to participate were included in this study. Study period of 1 month was conducted in October 2023.

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Inclusion criteria is involving only Final year part-1 MBBS students, who have attendance above 75%, and who give their consent to participate in this study. Exclusion criteria is excluding Undergraduate students of other batches in this teaching hospital, Final year part-1 MBBS students who have less than 75% attendance, and students who do not give their consent to participate in the study. Sampling technique is, 100 study subjects will be selected by simple random sampling technique using the table of random numbers, out of 250 Final year part-1 MBBS students.

A total of 100 final year part-1 MBBS students participated in this study. A predesigned validated questionnaire containing 25 questions was shared in the student WhatsApp groups using Google forms. The questionnaire validation was based on content validity and logical thinking. The questionnaire contained both open and closed end type of questions for data collection about awareness of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

The first page of the google form included the informed consent form for the participants. Only those who gave consent to the study were able to continue to fill the Google form. Second page contained the actual questionnaire, intended to collect information on awareness of ABDM.

The data collected will be analyzed by using MS Excel 2016 and SPSS 23. Data was subjected to descriptive statistics. Data will be presented as frequencies and percentages. The questionnaire was used to gauge the medical undergraduate's awareness and knowledge about Ayushman

Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). Performance of the respondents was categorized based on the scores obtained, into three categories as follows as in TABLE 1.

Table1: Categorization of scores

CATEGORY	RANGE OF SCORE
HIGH PERFORMANCE	20-25
MODERATE PERFORMANCE	15-19
LOW PERFORMANCE	<15

Results

This survey based cross-sectional study conducted among 100 students from Final year part-1 MBBS undergraduate students of Kurnool Medical College.64% of the respondents were in the high performing group, 28% in moderate performing group and 8% in the low performing group as mentioned in TABLE 2.

Table 2: Overview of the students' performance

CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
HIGH PERFORMING	64	64%
MODERATE PERFORMING	28	28%
LOW PERFORMING	8	8%

Table 3:Overview of responses given by the respondants

S.NO	QUESTION	NO. OF CORRECT RESPONSES IN %	NO. OF INCORRECT RESPONSES IN %
1	When was ABDM launched	81	19
2	Vision of ABDM	92	8
3	Who implements ABDM	78	22
4	Components of ABDM	95	5
5	Aim of ABDM	91	9
6	About Health Facility Registry	93	7
7	Who can enrol in Health Proffesional Registry	76	24
8	Mobile application of ABDM	28	72
9	Unified Health Interface	42	58
10	Benefits for citizens under ABDM	92	8
11	Digitalisation of Health records	89	11
12	Role of technology in ABDM	84	26

Based on the survey results, 81% of the respondents are aware about the launch of ABDM, 92% of the respondents have knowledge on the vision of ABDM, 78% of the respondents are aware about the implementation of ABDM, 95% of the respondents have knowledge on the components of ABDM, 91% of the respondents are aware about aim of ABDM, 93% of the respondents are aware about the Health Facility Registry, 76% of the respondents are aware about who can enroll in Health Professional Registry, but very few respondents (28%) are aware about the mobile application of ABDM, 42% of the respondents have knowledge on Unified Health Interface, 92% of the respondents agree that citizens are benefitting under ABDM, 89% of the respondents agree on the Digitalization of Health records in our country, 84% of the respondents think that there is need of technology in development of ABDM, all these results are tabulated and depicted in TABLE 3.

In this study, 89% of the respondents were aware about who launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). 81% of the respondents knew that their college is registered in Health Facility Registry. 95% of the respondents agreed with ABDM in improving Efficiency and Transparency of Health service delivery. 84% of the respondents agreed that there is change in health system of India after launching ABDM. 96% of the respondents agreed in implementing new initiatives like ABDM to make our Healthcare system better.

Discussion

This survey based cross sectional study intended to assess the awareness of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission among 100 final year part-1 MBBS students of Kurnool Medical College. As if we analyze the results, it is evident that many students are aware of the program, but they are not aware of the clinical applications of the program and its functions. It emphasizes on the academic deficit of this topic.

The limitations of the study are that it involved medical undergraduates from only one government institutions; therefore, the findings cannot be extrapolated to other institutions with different academic environments. It also involved medical undergraduates from Final year part-1 MBBS only and students above 75% attendance only are involved in this study. Multicenter studies involving study participants in different academic step, Government and private institutions and involving a greater number of participants from different years of medical undergraduate course will give more understanding on the awareness of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission among them.

It is very much evident from the results of the present study that many students are aware of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and its components, but they are not aware about its function and changes made in Healthcare System. ABDM like other Digital missions and programs can make better changes in Healthcare Delivery, but there is need of introduction of those programs mainly to medical undergraduate students, which makes them understand better about our health system and the uses of those programs in our healthcare system. MBBS students who are future doctors of this society, need to know about our healthcare delivery and management. In view of this, students should get early exposure to the digitalization of healthcare system. So early introduction of digital health into medical curriculum can help students for better understanding and involvement in the healthcare system.

Conclusion

Majority of the students are aware about the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, its components, and functions. But many students do not have idea about its role in the digital healthcare System, and how our Digital Health System works.

The present study bases a lot of significance in the light of existing NMC guidelines which state that the ABHA ID based patient data base through the Hospital Management Information System (HIMS) will be used to assess the clinical material available in each medical college for the purpose of Undergraduate training. The digital documentation of clinical material goes a long way in making assessment valid and also aid in the rating procedures. So, in view of this, every Medical Undergraduate should have a idea about the Digital Health Management.

Very few students had idea about the mobile application of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).There is need of knowledge about digital health among undergraduate students which can be achieved by introduction of Digital Health into Medical Curriculum.

Recommendations

ABDM can benefit medical students by supporting clinical decision making and can create interoperability between different digital health systems. MBBS students can gain valuable experience by using digital tools and electronic health records, preparing them for modern healthcare systems. So, it is highly recommended to include this topic in the curriculum, conduct educational campaigns to increase the awareness on ABDM and achieve its vision of universal health coverage.

Limitations of the study

Study done with small sample size and in limited period, so findings may not be generalized to the population.

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