

Editorial

Open Access

Significance of shadowing and its contribution to the development of competent healthcare providers

Saba Tariq^{a*}, Sundus Tariq^b, Muhammad Ali Abbas^c

^a Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University Medical & Dental College Faisalabad/ Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Birmingham, England, UK.

^b Professor, Department of Physiology, University Medical & Dental College, The University of Faisalabad, Pakistan.

^c Pre-medical Student, Queen Elizabeth School, England, UK.

Correspondence: *drsabatariq1@gmail.com

How to cite this: Tariq S, Tariq S, Abbas MA. Significance of shadowing and its contribution to the development of competent healthcare providers. *Journal of University Medical & Dental College*. 2023; 14(3):v-v.



Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

Future healthcare workers are heavily influenced by medical education. The practical application of this information is equally crucial, even while traditional classroom learning offers a sound theoretical foundation. As a crucial part of medical school, shadowing gives aspiring doctors the chance to obtain priceless insights into the actual practice of medicine.

Medical students can see and communicate with seasoned healthcare providers in a variety of clinical settings by shadowing them. Students are exposed personally to the complex dynamics of patient care, multidisciplinary teamwork, and the difficulties faced by doctors. It strengthened their capacity to use theoretical information in practical contexts and their comprehension of clinical medicine ^[1].

The doctors act as role models, passing along knowledge, abilities, and ethical principles that cannot be learned only from textbooks. According to a study, shadowing opportunities helped medical students build their professional abilities by encouraging professionalism, empathy, and effective communication ^[2].

Developing rapport and trust with patients requires effective communication and interpersonal skills. Through shadowing, medical students have the chance to see directly how seasoned doctors engage with patients, breaking bad news to them, and resolving their worries. A study highlighted how shadowing experiences greatly improved students' capacity for effective communication, patient empathy, and comprehension of the psychological facets of healthcare ^[3].

Shadowing exposes students to a wide range of medical specialties, allowing them to explore different areas of interest. This exposure helps students make informed career choices and gain insights into the daily responsibilities, challenges, and rewards associated with various medical disciplines. In a study by Suda et al, it was found that shadowing experiences played a crucial role in shaping medical students' career decisions and provided a realistic understanding of their desired specialties ^[4].

In medical education, shadowing experiences serves as a crucial link between theoretical understanding and real-world application. Shadowing is essential for the growth of compassionate and well-rounded healthcare workers because it exposes prospective doctors to real-world clinical settings, offers them opportunities for personal and professional growth, and provides them with mentorship from seasoned professionals. Institutions and educators should keep stressing the value of shadowing and offer students structured opportunities to take advantage of this excellent educational resource.

REFERENCES:

1. Bowen L, Marshall M, Murdoch-Eaton D. Medical student perceptions of feedback and feedback behaviors within the context of the “educational alliance”. *Academic Medicine*. 2017;92(9):1303-1312. Doi:10.1097/ACM.0000000000001632
2. Dyrbye LN, Massie FS, Eacker A, Harper W, Power D, Durning SJ, et al. Relationship between burnout and professional conduct and attitudes among US medical students. *JAMA*. 2010;304(11):1173-1180. Doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1318
3. Hsieh MC, Lo WL. A qualitative study of medical students' perspectives on a clinically-based interprofessional shadowing course. *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice*. 2023;31:100605. Doi:10.1016/j.xjep.2023.100605
4. Suda S, Burkbauer L, White B, Browning J, DeLisser HM. Medical Students' Reflections on Their Experiences in a Trauma Chaplain Shadowing Program. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine®*. 2023;10499091221149192. Doi:10.1177/10499091221149192

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

GRANT SUPPORT & FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: None.