

ESSENTIAL COURSE FOR MEDICAL EDUCATOR (ECME): AN INTEGRATED FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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Introduction

Faculty development in medical education is crucial for all medical schools, especially newly established medical education centers. To our knowledge, there is no diploma or master degree course in medical education in Thailand. This paper describes an innovative medical education program and its preliminary evaluation.

Methods

A year round program was designed based on 3 concepts: integration of the existing courses with the newly developed ones, feasible for busy clinical teachers, fostering in-depth educational knowledge. The program included six 3-to 5-day workshops. Of these, 3 were new workshops. The themes were teaching and learning, curriculum development, instructional design, assessment and medical education in practice. The modules increased from 40 to 42 in 2015. All participants must attend at least 80% of total workshop hours and complete 12 out of 22 assignments to be awarded a Certificate. The program was evaluated by questionnaire and 2 focus group discussions.

Results

The numbers of participants were 41 and 44 in 2013 and 2014. The assignment completion rate in 1 year were 63% and 52% for the first and second batches. There were high satisfaction rating regarding the content (100%), quality of workshop facilitators (96%) and assignment (89%). The participants reflected that they were motivated to improve their teaching techniques and to apply theories into practice. Although writing assignment was time-consuming, they gained deep understanding. Many new study guides were developed during the workshops and can be used in their own settings.

Conclusions

Although one-year assignment completion rate was moderate, participants were satisfied with the program. They were motivated and could apply the theories into real practice with students.