

Influence of medical TV shows on medical students' perceptions and attitude

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Medical drama has been one of TV most popular genres since their inception. These shows often depict medical professionalism, ethics and realism. The portrayal of the medical field in such entertainment has raised concerns about its potential impact on the perceptions, attitudes, and knowledge of individuals pursuing medical education, particularly medical students. **Materials and Method:** A cross-sectional study through an online survey was conducted on both preclinical and clinical year medical students from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP). Descriptive analysis and a chi-square test were used to analyze the data. **Results:** Among the 299 students surveyed, the majority agreed that TV medical dramas positively influence their perceptions of how medical healthcare works in reality. The majority of respondents also agreed that TV medical dramas have influenced their attitude, decision regarding medical specialties, study motivation and educational impact. Medical TV shows also provide memorable and retained medical information; however, most respondents felt that they do not serve as a preferred method of learning. **Conclusion:** These research findings support the notion that medical TV shows are highly popular among medical students, who hold favourable views towards these shows and draw inspiration from them. Medical TV shows have a positive impact by enhancing their understanding of clinical practices and ethical considerations in medicine. However, it remains crucial for students to watch these shows with mindfulness, so as not to be overly influenced by the exaggerated portrayal of medicine in these dramas.