“MENTORSHIP PROGRAM’S PERCEPTION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN UNIVERSITY”

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Mentoring is a collaborative learning relationship between two or more individuals, with mutual goals and shared accountability for the outcomes and success of relationship [Ali, S and Haider, Z 2013]. A professional relationship with the mentors has a marked influence on the students learning opportunities and consequently a positive impact on their learning outcomes and professional development. Supportive and consistent clinical mentoring influenced students learning outcomes positively and allowed them to grow in professional confidence and satisfaction [Ali, Omair, and Baig, 2015]. The aim of the study was to assess the perception about mentorship program among students of health care Science University,

METHODS: The research design adopted for the study was descriptive design. The sample comprised of 120 undergraduate students from South Indian University. The samples were selected by using stratified random sampling technique. Data collected from 120 samples were analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS version 23(2015) .The content validity of the Likert scale on perception on mentorship program(Academic Performance ,Personal Development, Emotional and Psychological Development, Hostel) was established in consultation with experts in the field of Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Nursing. Reliability of the tool was tested by Cronbach’s alpha method(r=8.6).

RESULT: Among 120 samples, (84.16%) of Undergraduate students is having positive perception towards mentoring on academics performance, emotional and psychological development. [90 %] of students from Nursing college have positive responses. (86.7%) of students from Pharmacy college responded positively towards mentorship program. (83.3%) of students from Dental college agreed mentoring helps them in personal development and 76.7%) of students from Physiotherapy college showed mentoring helped them in resolve the academic and emotional issues.

CONCLUSION: The study concluded that effective mentoring helps the students to improve their academic abilities, psychological and emotional development, personal development, and also helps in better life in hostel.

KEYWORDS: Perception, Mentorship Program, Mentor, Mentees, Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mentorship program is a key mechanism for facilitating learning for health care professional students while on practice and placement [Davis, 2007]. The mentoring role has well documented roots originating in Greek mythology [Gill, Roulet, and Kerridge, 2018]. The mentees-mentor relationship is a complex one and can be rewarding as well as problematic at times. Mentors want to provide a valuable practice experience for students, but are constrained by multiple demands and limited resources. The mentor’s role is paramount in student assessment and the mentor should receive the support necessary to enhance student’s learning [Hodges, 2009]. Student’s
academic gain and learning performance is affected by numerous factors including gender, age, teaching faculty, student schooling, father/guardian, social economic status, residential area of students, medium of instruction in schools, tuition trend, daily study hours and accommodation as hostellers or day scholar [Moscaritolo 2009]. Mentorship is an integral part of the qualified professional student’s role that supports learning and development [Russell and Adams, 1997]. Mentoring is not a “one-size-fits-all” proposition. Andrews and Wallis (1999) think that in order to have a successful mentoring program or engage in a rewarding mentoring relationship, it is vital that there is a mutual understanding of what the term mentor means. A lack of clarity noted in the literature, regarding mentoring, creates great risk for role confusion and the potential for role conflict and misunderstandings [Ssemata, Gladding, 2017]. This study is aimed to identify the lacunae of mentorship program among undergraduate students of South Indian University and helping the institution for better mentorship program.

II. METHODS

This study was carried out in South Indian University. Ethical clearance was obtained from Yenepoya Ethics Committee -1 (Accredited by FERCP under name of Yenepoya University Ethics Committee, University Road, India). The research design adopted for the study was descriptive design. The sample comprised of 120 mentees from the Nursing, Pharmacy, Dental, and Physiotherapy colleges. The samples were selected by using stratified random sampling technique. The investigator used Likert scale to assess the perception of mentorship program. The Likert scale comprised of perception questionnaires on Academic performance, Personal development, Emotional and psychological development and Hostel issues. Data collected from 120 samples were analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS version 23, (2015). The content validity of the Likert scale was established in consultation with experts in the field of Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Nursing. Reliability of the tool was tested by Cronbach’s alpha method ie, (r=8.6). The inclusion criteria for the selection of the samples were mentees undergone minimum one year of mentorship program in their constituent college. The students who admit in between the course, discontinue and join in between the course and cannot co-operate and absent during period of data collection were excluded.

III. RESULT

1. Distribution of the sample according to demographic variables:

Majority [77.5%] of the students belongs to the age group of 18-21 years and [25%] of students from 4 colleges, [45.8%] of students are from second year, [75.8%] of students were having previous mentoring experience [57.5%] of students were getting mentoring once in a month.

2. Overall response of perception on mentorship programme among health care university undergraduate students

Perception on mentorship program among Undergraduate students of health university revealed majority [88.3%] of samples responded that mentoring help them in academic aspects and advises how to improve their academic performance. [79.2%] of samples were responded that mentoring is great for their personal development, and in that [55%] of students responded that they feel mentoring is a good way of helping students to understand their roles. [85.8%] of samples reveals mentoring provides an emotional and psychological support to them and [51.7%] of students felt mentor is like a friend to them. [81.7%] of mentees having positive response towards mentoring helps them in maintaining better life in hostel and [52.5%] of students are agreed that mentoring helps them to maintain good interpersonal relationship with roommate.

3. Response of Mentorship program of undergraduates of Nursing, Dental, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy colleges N=120
Fig 1: Shows that (90%) of students from Nursing college have positive responses. (86.7%) of students from Pharmacy college responded positively towards mentorship program. (83.3%) of students from Dental college agreed mentoring helps them in personal development and (76.7%) of students from Physiotherapy college showed mentoring helped them in resolve the academic and emotional issues.

Table 2: Association between perceptions with selected demographic variable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. NO</th>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>( \chi^2 )</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Age (in years)</td>
<td>2.663</td>
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<td>0.095</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-21 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P&lt;0.05</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21-23 years</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>2.189</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.534</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P&lt;0.05</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<td>Physiotherapy</td>
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<td>Dental</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>3.190</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.363</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.Second year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.Third year</td>
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<td>3.Fourth year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4.Internship</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Previous mentoring experience</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.507</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.Yes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P&lt;0.05</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Episodes of mentoring in a month</td>
<td>1.240</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.538</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Once</td>
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<td>P&lt;0.05</td>
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<td>Twice</td>
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<td>More than three</td>
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Table 1 shows that there is no significant association between perception on mentorship and any demographic variables like age in years, college, class, previous mentoring experience and episodes of mentoring in a month.

IV. DISCUSSION

Mentorship program perception was assessed through likert scale. The present study revealed that (90%) of students from Nursing college have positive responses. (86.7%) of students from Pharmacy college responded positively towards mentorship program. (83.3%) of students from Dental college agreed mentoring helps them in personal development and (76.7%) of students from Physiotherapy college showed mentoring helped them in resolve the academic and emotional issues. The study is supported by Joyce Wachira (2019) who conducted descriptive cross...
sectional study aimed at assessing the perception on mentorship among nursing students at kabarnet Kenya medical training college. Result showed that majority (81%) of the respondents perceived mentorship as beneficial in the learning process and other (67%) felt that mentoring contributed positively to professional growth [18]. The researcher came across few limitations during the study progress like long term follow up on mentorship program could not be carried out due to time limitations, and the study findings are generalized only to mentees.

V. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that effective mentoring helps the students to improve their academic abilities, psychological and emotional development, personal development, and also helps in better life in hostel.

REFERENCES

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