

Doctor-Patient Relationship Influence on Medical Students' Profession Choice*

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Abstract—Doctor-patient relationship is of paramount importance for the cultivation of medical students in all aspects. In order to explore medical students' cognition of the current doctors-patient relationship and its influence on their views of choosing professions, a survey via self-designed questionnaires (n=300) was conducted. 83.25% medical students surveyed thought that the current doctor-patient relationship was strained. Additionally, more senior students responded that they are negatively affected concerning career choice, especially in the aspects of learning interest, career confidence and career choice, and 7.33% medical students surveyed will no longer engage in medical treatment. There was a positive correlation between the tension cognition of doctor-patient relationship and the choice of career intention and preference to the harmonious work department. The cognition of medical students of the current doctor-patient relationship was mainly defined as "tense", and it had a certain negative impact on the medical students' view of professions choosing, and increased the loss of medical talents and the uneven distribution of various jobs. Importantly the colleges and universities should strengthen career education and the change of students' view of job selection, and implement targeted guidance to reduce the loss of medical talents to guarantee the sustainable development of medical and health services.

Keywords—doctor-patient relationship; medical students; career

I. INTRODUCTION

Doctor-patient relationship is a kind of social relationship

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between doctors and patients because of medical behaviors (Zhan, 2012). Many factors affect the disharmony of doctor-patient relationship (Zhou, 2011). With the reform of the medical and health system, the medical violence has become more and more serious despite the improvement in people's health whether in China or other countries (Jia 2014; Kasai Y 2018), moreover, exposure to workplace violence (WPV) significantly affected the psychological stress, sleep quality and self-reported health of doctors and nurses (Tao 2017; Gates DM 2011). The fourth medical professional status survey report of the Chinese Medical Doctor Association showed that the number of doctors who did not want their kids to study medicine is increasingly rising. Medical talent supply and demand are seriously disordered. The flow is becoming more frequent, and the phenomenon of irrational loss is gradually appearing (Ding, 2017).

Medical students, as an active force, are often ignored by the public. Due to the continuity of career development, medical students' understanding of doctor-patient relationship will directly affect their professional identity (Zhang, 2014) and choice of future career (Wang, 2015). Whereas, doctor-patient relationship is rarely discussed in the study of career orientation and the loss of talents. In view of this, it is important to investigate the special crowd of cognitive situation of doctor-patient relationship, and its influence on medical students' views on career-choosing, to guide medical students having a rational understanding on doctor-patient relationship, targeted medical personnel training should be implemented, reducing the loss of medical talents.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Participants

About medical undergraduate and graduate students of Xi'an Medical College, a total of 310 questionnaires were issued of which 300 valid questionnaires collected, and the effective recovery rate was 96.77%. There were 138 male (46%), 169 junior (junior and below) (56.33%), 167 clinical medical students (55.67%). 155 people (51.67%) from family in the countryside. The degree of the education on parents (education was the higher of the two) was high school and above whose number was 142 (47.33%), there was 141 families with medical workers (47%).

B. Procedure

Questionnaire designed through consulting a large number of relevant documents, faculty evaluation and pre-survey to complete. The questionnaire included the basic information of the object; the cognition of doctor-patient relationship and the influence of doctor-patient relationship on the career choice of medical students, which can be divided into 12 questions. Among them, Q1-Q7 explored the differences in the cognition of doctor-patient relationship between different subjects. Q8-Q12 inquired further about

whether the cognition of the doctor-patient relationship affected the factors related to career choice of medical students, which included the learning interest, employed in confidence, quality of clinical practice ability, future career direction and choice of the department of work.

The method of stratified random sampling was adopted, according to the professional grade stratification, then taking the class as a unit to conduct random sampling.

C. Results

83.25% of the respondents believed that the status of doctor-patient relationship was defined as "tense". Students who do not have medical workers in the family thought that doctor-patient relationship were strain; meanwhile, there were no statistically significant differences in the cognitive differences of doctor-patient in other cases (shown in "Table I"). The gap and influence factors were further underscored by "Table II" which demonstrated that 52.67%, 56.67%, 59% and 49.33% of the respondents had negative influences on learning interest, employment in confidence and the quality of clinical practice and the choice of department and there was a significant difference between high and low grade; 7.33% of respondents responded that they will no longer engage in medical treatment.

TABLE I. DIFFERENCES IN THE COGNITION OF DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIFFERENT SUBJECTS [N (%)]

Items		Not nervous	Nervous	X ²	P
Gender	Male	32(23.19)	106(76.81)	0.62	0.43
	Female	44(27.16)	118(72.84)		
Grade	Junior	42(24.85)	127(75.15)	0.14	0.71
	Senior	35(26.72)	96(73.28)		
Profession	Clinical major	44(26.35)	123(73.65)	0.57	0.45
	Non-clinical major	30(22.56)	103(77.44)		
Registered Permanent Residence	Countryside	39(25.16)	116(74.84)	0.042	0.84
	Cities and Towns	35(24.14)	110(75.86)		
Parents Education Level	High School and above	31(21.83)	111(78.17)	0.92	0.34
	Under the High School	42(26.58)	116(73.42)		
Whether there were medical workers in the family	Yes	35(24.82)	106(75.18)	6.86	0.009
	No	62(38.99)	97(61.01)		

TABLE II. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DIFFERENT RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP [N (%)]

Projects		Junior grade	Senior grade	X ²	P
Impact on Learning Interest	Less motivated	76(44.97)	82(62.60)	9.20	0.002
	More motivated	93(55.03)	49(37.40)		
Impact on Employed in Confidence	Suspicion	86(50.89)	84(64.12)	5.26	0.02
	Constancy	83(49.11)	47(35.88)		
Impact on Quality of Clinical Practice Ability	Decline in Positive Initiative	80(47.33)	97(74.05)	21.76	<0.001
	Promotion on Autonomous learning ability	89(52.66)	34(25.95)		
Whether to Change the Future Career Direction	No Longer Engage in Medical Treatment	12(7.10)	10(7.63)	0.03	0.86
	Still Be in the Medical Profession	157(92.90)	121(92.37)		
Whether Affect the Choice of department of Work	Choose the Harmonious Department	68(40.24)	80(61.07)	12.81	<0.001
	Little Effect	101(59.25)	51(38.93)		

The degree of tension cognition was set to (X), and the choice of career intention and department were set to (Y₁) and (Y₂), and assigned points to each option. The statistical analysis demonstrated that the tension cognition of doctor-patient relationship was positively correlated with the choice of career intention and department (r₁=0.089, P₁=0.03, r₂=0.061, P₂=0.02). In other words, medical students who were more nervous about the doctor-patient relationship were less likely to continue to work in the medical field in the future, and in relative terms, they preferred to choose the department with a harmonious doctor-patient relationship.

III. CONCLUSION

The results demonstrated that 83.25% of the medical students believed that the current doctor-patient relationship was tense, which was higher compared with other relevant scholars in China (Wang, 2014). It is also found that the more intense of the cognition of the doctor-patient relationship, the more of the medical students would prefer to work in the more harmonious departments, to some extent, causing the uneven distribution of medical work.

Most were not fully aware of doctor-patient relationship, which might be related to the frequent domestic medical violence or injury of medical treatment on the eve of the investigation and the lack of proper medical education. Whereas the cognition of medical students with family background of medical workers was clear, who can understand doctor-patient relationship through the well-known channel, media, and the family members' oral narration. While situated in the current doctor-patient relationship, the vast majority will still choose the medical enterprise, there having a certain negative influence, especially for senior medical students. Medical educators need to consolidate and strengthen the professional thought of medical students, reform the teaching content, promote the

student internalization theory, enhance the ability to distinguish between right and wrong (Lian, 2008).

From some studies on its influencing factors, we could find there was a significant positive correlation between study burnout and life stress in medical students (Xu, 2009) and the high occupational risk of medical students also affected the professional thought of medical students (Lu, 2008). Also, senior students had more chance to contact with clinical practice, witness the unreasonable behavior of the patients and their families in the doctor-patient dispute, even worse, it is likely that the medical students themselves had been abused and beaten by patients and their families. Additionally, the teacher's emotional disclosure also subtly influences the students and the patients' rejection behaviors of medical students had resulted that the quality of clinical skills training for medical students was not guaranteed. Thus, It may not only need to increase social attention, to enhance career attractiveness, but it is also necessary to adjust the state of thought for different grades, strengthen doctor-patient education (Xuan, 2010) and the positive teaching work of teachers, to ensure the effect of internship and conduct targeted career guidance (Sameer S, 2016), to reduce the loss of medical personnel (Ding, 2015; Jiang 2016), to ultimately promote the sustainable development of medical and health care.

This research mainly aimed at medical students who don't engage in clinical practice of medical students, and there are a number of variability factors impacting on their views. Therefore, the findings can't directly reflect gain and loss of medical talents.

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