**Table 1: Characteristics of study participants**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl No: | Variable | Subgroups | Total sample size | Proportion  (%) |
| 1 | Age | 19 | 14 | 3.5 |
| 20 | 121 | 30.4 |
| 21 | 106 | 26.6 |
| 22 | 80 | 20.1 |
| 23 | 50 | 12.6 |
| ≥24 | 27 | 6.78 |
| 2 | Gender | Male | 53 | 13.3 |
| Female | 345 | 86.7 |
| 3 | Course | Medical | 103 | 25.9 |
| Dental | 137 | 34.4 |
| Nursing | 113 | 28.4 |
| Pharmacy | 45 | 11.3 |
| 4 | Year of study | Third year | 235 | 59.0 |
| Fourth year | 111 | 27.9 |
| Internship | 52 | 13.1 |
| 5 | Domicile | Kerala | 374 | 94 |
| Tamil Nadu | 8 | 2.0 |
| New Delhi | 5 | 1.3 |
| Others | 11 | 2.8 |
| 6 | Mother tongue | Malayalam | 370 | 93 |
| Tamil | 12 | 3.0 |
| Hindi | 8 | 2.0 |
| Others | 8 | 2.0 |
| 7 | Religion | Hinduism | 307 | 77.1 |
| Christianity | 70 | 17.6 |
| Islam | 13 | 3.3 |
| Others | 2 | 0.5 |
| Not interested to disclose | 6 | 1.5 |
|  | Overall participants |  | 398 |  |

**Table 2: Comparison of mean and SD between the various courses**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl No.** | **Item** | **Mean ± Standard Deviation,95% Confidence Interval** | | | | |
| **Overall**  **(n=398)** | **Medicine (n=103)** | **Dentistry (n=137)** | **Nursing (n=113)** | **Pharmacy (n=45)** |
| **1** | I have experience of living in places other than my native state | 3.35 ± 1.38  (3.21 - 3.48) | 3.51 ± 1.46  **(**3.23 - 3.80) | 3.44 ±1.48  **(**3.19 - 3.69) | 3.12 ± 1.21  **(**2.90 - 3.35) | 3.27±1.21  **(**2.90 - 3.63) |
| **2** | Knowledge about cultural differences and similarities play an important role in diagnosis and treatment planning. | 3.91 ± 0.83  (3.83 - 3.99) | 4.04 ± 0.82  (3.88 - 4.20) | 3.92 ± 0.81  (3.78 - 4.06) | 3.79 ± 0.88  (3.62 - 3.95) | 3.87±0.79  (3.63 - 4.10) |
| **3** | Cultural differences and similarities influence the patient care | 3.71 ± 0.98  (3.61-3.81) | 3.83 ± 0.92  (3.66 - 4.01) | 3.78 ± 0.97  (3.62 - 3.94) | 3.53 ± 1.08  (3.33 - 3.73) | 3.67±0.85  (3.41 - 3.92) |
| **4** | Communication skills play an important role while interacting with the patients from diverse backgrounds | 4.50 ± 0.73  (4.43 - 4.57) | 4.75 ± 0.56  (4.64 - 4.86) | 4.48a ± 0.74  (4.36 - 4.61) | 4.35b ±0.79  (4.20 - 4.49) | 4.36c±0.77  (4.12 - 4.59) |
| **5** | Assist your friends / colleagues in communicating with patients from diverse cultural and linguistic background | 4.16 ± 0.76  (4.09 - 4.24) | 4.39 ± 0.58  (4.27 - 4.50) | 4.21 ± 0.81  (4.08 - 4.35) | 3.99b±0.83  (3.84 -4.15) | 4.16c±0.76  (4.09 - 4.24) |
| **6** | I can explain the influences of culture on patient’s health / illness related cultural knowledge | 3.72 ± 0.82  (3.64 -3.80) | 3.75 ± 0.78  (3.60 - 3.90) | 3.70 ± 0.86  (3.56 - 3.85) | 3.75±0.76  (3.61 - 3.89) | 3.62±0.91  (3.35 - 3.90) |
| **7** | Eliciting information about each patient’s beliefs/behaviour about health/illness is easy | 3.14 ± 0.99  (3.05 - 3.24) | 2.65 ± 0.90  (2.47 - 2.83) | 3.20a ± 1.06  (3.02 - 3.38) | 3.44b±0.88  (3.28 - 3.61) | 3.36c± 0.80  (3.11 - 3.60) |
| **8** | Familiarity in health or illness-related cultural knowledge is important | 3.97 ± 0.74  (3.90 - 4.04) | 4.08b ± 0.80  (3.92 - 4.23) | 4.09d ± 0.59  (3.99 - 4.19) | 3.77±0.79  (3.62 - 3.92) | 3.87±0.79  (3.63 - 4.10) |
| **9** | I know the methods or ways of collecting health, illness, and cultural related information | 3.42 ± 0.92  (3.33 - 3.51) | 3.19b ± 0.97  (3.00 - 3.38) | 3.26d ± 0.96  (3.09 - 3.42) | 3.74±0.77  (3.60 - 3.89) | 3.60±0.78  (3.37 - 3.83) |
| **10** | Comparison of the health or illness beliefs among patients with diverse cultural background plays an important role in patient care | 3.91 ± 0.69  (3.84 - 3.98) | 3.96 ± 0.79  (3.81 - 4.12) | 3.97 ± 0.59  (3.97 - 4.07) | 3.84 ± 0.69  (3.71 - 3.97) | 3.78 ± 0.67  (3.58 - 3.98) |
| **11** | Identifying the care needs of patients with diverse cultural backgrounds is essential | 4.00 ± 0.68  (3.94 - 4.07) | 4.20b ± 0.65  (4.08 - 4.33) | 4.04d ± 0.63  (3.94 -4.15) | 3.80 ± 0.77  (3.65 - 3.94) | 3.93 ± 0.45  (3.80 - 4.07) |
| **12** | When implementing healthcare activities, I can fulfil the needs of patients from diverse cultural backgrounds | 3.69 ± 0.76  (3.61 - 3.76) | 3.49b ±0.77  (3.34 - 3.63) | 3.74 ± 0.75  (3.62 - 3.87) | 3.79 ± 0.75  (3.65 - 3.93) | 3.73 ± 0.75  (3.51 - 3.96) |
| **13** | Possible relationships between the health/illness beliefs and culture of the patients can be easily explained | 3.42 ± 0.857  (3.34 - 3.51) | 3.06a ± 0.861  (2.89 - 3.23) | 3.39d ± 0.909  (3.23 - 3.54) | 3.69b ± 0.721  (3.56 - 3.82) | 3.71c ±0.661  (3.51- 3.91) |
| **14** | Patient’s cultural background is important in establishing healthcare goals | 3.80 ± 0.88  (3.71 - 3.89) | 3.93 ± 0.89  (3.76 - 4.11) | 3.72 ± 0.92  (3.56 - 3.87) | 3.85 ± 0.78  (3.70 - 4.00) | 3.62 ± 0.88  (3.33 - 3.92) |
| **15** | When caring for patients from different cultural backgrounds, my behavioural response will not usually differ much from the patient’s cultural norms | 3.52 ± 0.93  (3.42 - 3.61) | 3.47 ± 1.05  (3.26 - 3.67) | 3.49 ± 0.97  (3.32 - 3.65) | 3.49 ± 0.80  (3.34 - 3.64) | 3.78 ±0.77  (3.55 - 4.01) |
| **16** | I usually discuss differences between the patient’s health beliefs/behaviour and health care knowledge with each patient | 3.24 ± 1.02  (3.14 - 3.34) | 3.10c ± 0.91  (2.92 - 3.28) | 3.20e ± 1.07  (3.02 - 3.38) | 3.23f ± 1.09  (3.03 - 3.43) | 3.73±0.78  (3.50 - 3.97) |
| **17** | Inability to speak the language of the dominant culture (Malayalam) has no impact on the ability of patients to communicate effectively in their language | 2.81 ± 1.15  (2.70 - 2.93) | 2.22abc± 1.16  (2.00 - 2.45) | 2.72d ± 1.15  (2.52 - 2.91) | 3.27 ± 0.89  (3.10 - 3.43) | 3.33e±0.98  (3.04 - 3.63) |
| **18** | Utilize the help of bilingual-bicultural staff to communicate about treatments and other related events to patients of diverse linguistic background | 3.93 ± 0.75  (3.86 - 4.01) | 4.21 ± 0.74  (4.07 - 4.36) | 3.93a ± 0.73  (3.80 - 4.05) | 3.69b ± 0.75  (3.55 - 3.83) | 3.93 ± 0.58  (3.76 - 4.11) |
| **19** | For improved communication with patients and their families who are less proficient in Malayalam, I attempt to learn and speak key words of their language | 3.97 ± 0.72  (3.90 - 4.05) | 4.08 ± 0.76  (3.93 -4.23) | 3.93 ± 0.73  (3.80 - 4.05) | 3.95 ± 0.69  (3.82 - 4.08) | 3.96 ± 0.64  (3.76 - 4.15) |
| **20** | Attempts to understand any familial conversations of patient about their cultural practices that may influence the treatment and related healthcare services | 3.72 ± 0.81  (3.64 - 3.80) | 3.78 ± 0.90  (3.60 - 3.95) | 3.64 ± 0.85  (3.49 - 3.78) | 3.69 ± 0.77  (3.55 - 3.83) | 3.89 ± 0.53  (3.73 - 4.05) |
| **21** | Understands that some patients prefer communications by word to written communications | 3.78 ± 0.78  (3.70 - 3.85) | 3.90 ± 0.75  (3.76 -4.05) | 3.72 ± 0.70  (3.60 - 3.84) | 3.73 ± 0.89  (3.56 - 3.89) | 3.78 ± 0.64  (3.59 - 3.97) |
| **22** | Avoidance of imposing values that conflict with those of cultures other than mine | 3.46 ± 0.91  (3.37 - 3.55) | 3.42 ± 1.02  (3.22 - 3.62) | 3.41± 1.02  (3.24 - 3.58) | 3.54 ± 0.71  (3.41 - 3.67) | 3.53 ± 0.76  (3.31 - 3.76) |
| **23** | Understand that people from different cultural background has varying degree of acculturation into the dominant culture | 3.76 ± 0.70  (3.69 - 3.83) | 3.87 ± 0.71  (3.74 - 4.01) | 3.71 ± 0.72  (3.59 - 3.83) | 3.72 ± 0.66  (3.59 - 3.84) | 3.78 ± 0.67  (3.58 - 3.98) |
| **24** | Recognise and respect the cultural and ethnic influence on the male female roles (e.g., decision making) | 3.79 ± 0.77  (3.72 - 3.87) | 3.69 ± 0.83  (3.53 - 3.85) | 3.74 ± 0.87  (3.60 - 3.89) | 3.91 ± 0.61  (3.80 - 4.02) | 3.89 ± 0.61  (3.71 - 4.07) |
| **25** | Despite your professional or moral differences, accept that patients and their families are the ultimate decision makers in healthcare services and events that impact their lives | 3.90 ± 0.87  (3.81 - 3.98) | 3.98 ± 0.91  (3.80 -4.16) | 3.94 ± 0.96  (3.78 - 4.10) | 3.89 ± 0.63  (3.78 - 4.01) | 3.58±0.99  (3.28 - 3.87) |
| **26** | Understand that response to illness, disease and death is influenced by religion and beliefs of the patient | 3.51± 0.95  (3.41 -3.60) | 3.50 ± 0.98  (3.30 - 3.69) | 3.31d± 1.07  (3.13 - 3.49) | 3.75 ± 0.77  (3.61 - 3.90) | 3.51 ± 0.79  (3.27 -3.75) |
| **27** | Accept that concepts of health, wellness and preventive care differ with culture | 3.79 ± 0.86  (3.70 - 3.87) | 3.79 ± 0.91  (3.61 -3.97) | 3.77 ± 0.91  (3.62 - 3.93) | 3.82 ± 0.79  (3.68 - 3.97) | 3.73 ± 0.78  (3.50 - 3.97) |

a - Mean difference between MBBS and BDS is statistically significant

b - Mean difference between MBBS and Nursing is statically significant

c - Mean difference between MBBS and BPharm is statistically significant

d - Mean difference between BDS and Nursing is statistically significant

e - Mean difference between BDS and B Pharm is statistically significant

f - Mean difference between Nursing and BPharm is statistically significant