

# "Enhancing Interprofessional Collaboration and Learning for Strengthening Primary Health Care"

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## TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF MEDICAL STUDENTS TOWARDS HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH POLICY IN INDIA
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Community-Based Education for Health and Social Care Students</i>
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Abstract N <sup>o</sup>	TUFH589
Content	<p>Background The new medical curriculum introduced by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2018 aligns with the national goals of "health for all". This calls for a competency-based medical curriculum with exposure to health care policies which is imperative to prepare medical students to deliver people-centered care. The aim of this study was to evaluate the attitudes and perceptions of medical students regarding the health care system during the medical training and recommend suggestions for improving the health care system. Methods: This was a questionnaire-based survey administered to 2nd-year students at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, India. The survey evaluated their attitudes and perceptions regarding the health care system and health policies in India as well as recorded their important suggestions for improvements in the health care system. Results: A total of 83 students participated in the survey. 43% of the students reported a good understanding of the Indian health care system prior to starting medical school with 46% noting improvement in knowledge during the second year of training. 43% were aware of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution that guarantees the right to health. The majority of the students advocated for affordable care especially for people below the poverty line, universal coverage, better health facilities, health insurance, and an increase in budget allocation for health. Conclusion The survey showed that medical students have genuine concerns regarding the health care system and additional training in health care policies would enable them to serve the community better.</p>