# THE ASIA- PACIFIC SCHOLAR MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

# ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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# Faculty development of medical educators: Training evaluation and key challenges

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** With the evolution of healthcare needs for the community and the changing trends in medical education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, medical educators need to be prepared for their tasks in the coming decades. Medical educator training is crucial but other factors can also affect the development of their competency. This study aims to measure the impact of the medical educators' training course and find out the key challenges encountered by the medical educators in Myanmar.

**Methods:** A retrospective quantitative design was conducted on 45 respondents by four levels of Kirkpatrick's model assessment consisting of 39 statements and 9 items of key challenges, using five-point Likert scale. The item scores were analysed as mean and standard deviation, 't' test and ANOVA were used for relationship between impact of training and demographic background. **Results:** There was significant association between the impact of training and the educational background (p=0.03), job position (p=0.02), and academic year attended (p=0.03). The respondents distinctly agreed that the training increased their knowledge and attitudes and that they could apply the learnt lessons practically in their workplace (minimum  $3.75\pm0.60$  and maximum  $4.28\pm0.50$ ). Regarding the key challenges, respondents viewed that their institution needed to support more scholarship opportunities and academic recognition; encourage networking and strengthen ICT-based medical education system (minimum  $2.55\pm0.84$  – maximum  $4.17\pm0.71$ ).

**Conclusion:** This study indicates that enhancing the competency of medical educators with medical educator training programs is effective and useful; but inadequacy of institutional support for faculty development and internet facilities posed challenges in the overall faculty development.

Keywords:Medical Education, Faculty Development, Impact of Medical Educator's Training, Kirkpatrick's Model, KeyChallenges

# Practice Highlights

- Medical educator training program is crucial for enhancing competency in medical educators.
- Medical educator training program inspires medical educators to apply their knowledge and skills in their daily departmental activities.
- Beyond training, medical schools must address a balance of capacity for teaching, research and service functions for their faculty.
- Encouraging institutional support such as reward, recognition, and appreciation for their performance should be encouraged as an admirable institutional culture.
- Inadequacy of institutional support for faculty development and internet facilities posed challenges in the overall faculty development.

# I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, with the evolution of healthcare needs for the community and changes in medical education trends, faculty development in medical education is challenging. Sheets and Schwenk (1990) explained that any activity that enhances the knowledge and skills of individual faculty members are very fundamental to their performance in a department or residency program such as teaching skills, clinical skills, research and administrative skill (Sheets & Schwenk, 1990). Developing the skills of faculty members is not effortless. The ability to teach is not inborn, although the graduate from medical school is supposed to be capable of teaching (McLean et al., 2008). Besides content, teaching involves 'process,' and to develop the 'art' of teaching, academics required to support (Benor, 2000).

The present-day teacher must be aware of and become part of the far- reaching changes taking place in medical education. Accordingly, in the 21st century, many changes can be found, such as teachers' conventional roles being shifted to different roles, such as facilitators, curriculum planners, resource developers, educational administrators, and researchers (Crosby, 2000). Significant trends in underpinned theories of medical education are now focusing on patient-centred and culturally competent medical doctors and the ultimate aim of medical education is to improve the patient and community outcomes by promoting competent and caring practitioners (competent medical doctors) (McLean et al., 2008).

According to Harden and Laidlaw (2017), the competencies and attributes expected of an effective teacher includes not only mastery of the content area but also the technical competencies necessary to serve as an information provider, a role model, a facilitator of learning, a curriculum planner, an assessor, a manager and a scholar" (p. 9). Most medical schools worldwide have been implementing specific training for medical educators to develop the necessary skills as medical educators. The study conducted by Steinert (2014), pointed out that nowadays, most medical schools and educational organisations offer various programs and activities in response to educational trends in teaching and assessment for helping faculty members improve their skills as teachers and educators. Additionally, the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) entails that for a basic standard of staff development: "the medical school must have a staff policy that addresses a balance of capacity for teaching, research and service functions. It also encourages ensuring recognition of meritorious academic activities, with appropriate emphasis on both research attainment and teaching qualifications" (World Federation for Medical Education, 2015).

In Myanmar, there are five civilian medical schools and one military medical school (Defence Services Medical Academy); however, no private medical school exists yet. Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA), was established on 19th November 1992 in Mingalodon, Yangon and is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools. The Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, established a medical educator's training program in 2003 for the medical educators from the civilian medical schools; likewise, the Directorate of Medical Services under the Ministry of Defence also started the medical educator training program for the military medical school in 2011. Both these medical educators' training programs emphasize on developing the competent skills of medical educators.

Although medical educator training is crucial to improve medical educators' quality in medical school, other influencing factors can affect the competency of medical educators. The impact of training depends not only on the program design of the training program but also on other factors such as learner characteristics and educational environment (Iqbal & AlSheikh, 2018). In a study conducted by Peeraer and Van Petegem (2012), the faculty members were able to apply teaching strategies and methods in their teaching activities after the faculty development training. Nevertheless, they faced some challenges, such as time constraints and scarce resources that impede their behavioural changes from becoming sustainable.

The medical educator training program in DSMA is a distance learning, diploma course with four face-to-face hands-on workshops. Individual written assignments are given on 10 fundamental modules that provide medical educators with the knowledge and skills about educational psychology, curriculum design and planning, objectives and contents, teaching-learning strategy, teaching-learning media, assessment and evaluation, educational leadership, communication skills, as well as conducting an educational workshop and educational research: throughout the one-year course. Since 2011, nine successive medical educator courses have been conducted, training and approximately 200 medical teachers from DSMA have successfully completed these courses and graduated.

Currently, there is no published evidence-based research investigating the crucial issues to develop competent medical educators in Myanmar. This study intends to focus on the training perspectives and the commitment of institutional support for the development of the medical skills. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to find out the impact of the medical educator's training course conducted in the military medical school and to explore the key challenges encountered by the trainees.

# II. METHODS

# A. Research Design

A retrospective design was used to investigate the impact of the medical educator training course and the medical educators' perception regarding their key challenges. By applying the program theory, a logic model for training program was applied, illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Logic model for training evaluation Adapted from (Rossi, et al., 2004)

# B. Kirkpatrick's Model

To investigate the impact of the training, the Kirkpatrick evaluation measurement tool was utilized (Appendix 1).

The four-levels in the Kirkpatrick's model are: 1) Reaction evaluation, Learning evaluation Behaviour evaluation and Result evaluation (Kirkpatrick & Kirkpatrick, 2006).

# C. Research Framework



Figure 2. Research framework

# D. Data Collection

Survey questionnaires were formulated in three sections. The first session aimed to get demographic information, the second one intended for Kirkpatrick's evaluation by 39 evaluation questions, and the last was constructed by nine items to explore the critical challenges for medical educators. Questionnaires were developed based on the contents and expected outcomes of the medical educator training course that has been to delivered throughout the courses. These are related to the knowledge, attitude and skills that gained after the course regarding educational psychology, curriculum design and planning, objectives and contents, teaching-learning strategy & media, assessment and evaluation, educational leadership, communication skills, conducting an educational workshop and educational research. Moreover, questionnaires attributed to possible challenges that have been encountered by medical educators were adapted from the research outcomes of Huwendiek et al. (2010). All evaluation questions were self-administered and had the five-point Likert scale items ranging from 5 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree). Informed verbal consent was obtained from the respondents in respective of respondents' autonomy before data collection. Ethics approval was obtained from the Ethical Review Committee of the Defence Services Medical Academy, Yangon, Myanmar.

# E. Sampling Procedure

Every medical educator is eligible if they had already completed the training and currently engaging in the undergraduate and postgraduate medical education programs at the military medical school, in Myanmar. Among the 120 persons who meet eligibility, approximately 30% of the population (45 participants) responded to the evaluation survey and convenience sampling was practiced.

# F. Data Analysis

Data obtained from the survey was entered in Microsoft Excel files and analysed by SPSS software. The item scores of each evaluation were analysed as descriptive analysis such as mean and standard deviation to compare the response rate. The t-test and ANOVA analysis were used to determine the relationship between respondents' demographic characteristics and Kirkpatrick's four-level evaluation results. Descriptive analysis was used to explore the key challenges of medical educators.

## **III. RESULTS**

Forty-five medical educator attendees who satisfactorily completed one of the medical education courses held at DSMA between 2011 and 2019, individually expressed their views on the impact of the medical educator training courses and disclosed the key challenges regarding faculty development in medical education. The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in Figshare at

<u>https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.17074637</u> (Naing et al., 2021).

There were 39 evaluation questions, and each evaluation level has specific items, respectively. The internal consistency of each of the scales was examined by using Cronbach's alpha. The alpha score was satisfactory: 0.65 for reaction evaluation (11 items), 0.86 for learning evaluation (10 items), 0.81 for behavioral evaluation (11 items), and 0.84 for result evaluation (7 items).

#### A. Demographic Characteristics

Of the demographic characteristics, three factors (age, gender, and expertise), had no significant association with the impact of the training, but the respondents' educational background (p=0.03), job's position (p=0.02), academic year they attended (p=0.03) showed statistically significant association with the impact of training (Table 1). However, the proportionally unequal number of respondents in each group may affect the results.

<b>Reaction Evaluation</b>	Learning Evaluation	Behavioral evaluation	<b>Result Evaluation</b>
Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD
4.05±0.20	4.08±0.27	3.93±0.26	4.00±0.35
4.10±0.27	4.30±0.44	3.99±0.22	4.22±0.39
4.06±0.28	4.12±0.38	4.01±0.44	4.10±0.40
0.17	1.55	0.28	1.30
0.83	0.22	0.75	0.28
4.06±0.23	4.10±0.31	3.93±0.26	4.07±0.39
4.09±0.24	4.26±0.41	4.04±0.36	4.08±0.33
-0.474	-1.44	-1.16	-0.07
0.63	0.15	0.24	0.94
4.05±0.27	4.09±0.31	3.90±0.27	3.99±0.37
4.09±0.20	4.25±0.39	4.09±0.28	4.25±0.32
-0.50	-1.49	-2.18	-2-23
0.61	0.14	0.03*	0.03*
4.04±0.26	4.10±0.33	3.86±0.30	4.06±0.33
4.09±0.19	4.25±0.33	4.09±0.24	4.20±0.36
4.02±0.28	4.03±0.33	3.90±0.29	3.96±0.40
4.15±0.21	4.10±0.41	3.90±0.32	3.92±0.45
0.45	0.95	1.94	1.19
0.71	0.42	0.13	0.32
4.04±0.21	4.07±0.27	3.93±0.26	3.99±0.35
4.04±0.24	4.16±0.35	3.90±0.18	4.12±0.38
4.33±0.29	4.70±0.30	4.33±0.29	4.38±0.35
4.11±0.30	4.15±0.52	4.02±0.56	4.25±0.45
1.49	3.47	2.02	1.47
0.23	0.02*	0.12	0.23
4.02±0.24	4.11±0.37	3.88±0.27	4.13±0.45
	Accelor Evaluation           Mean $\pm$ SD           4.05 $\pm$ 0.20           4.10 $\pm$ 0.27           4.06 $\pm$ 0.28           0.17           0.83           4.06 $\pm$ 0.23           4.09 $\pm$ 0.24           -0.474           0.63           4.05 $\pm$ 0.27           4.09 $\pm$ 0.20           -0.50           0.61           4.04 $\pm$ 0.26           4.09 $\pm$ 0.19           4.02 $\pm$ 0.28           4.15 $\pm$ 0.21           0.45           0.71           4.04 $\pm$ 0.21           4.04 $\pm$ 0.23           4.11 $\pm$ 0.30           1.49           0.23	Reaction EvaluationLearning EvaluationMean $\pm$ SDMean $\pm$ SD $4.05\pm0.20$ $4.08\pm0.27$ $4.10\pm0.27$ $4.30\pm0.44$ $4.06\pm0.28$ $4.12\pm0.38$ $0.17$ $1.55$ $0.83$ $0.22$ $4.06\pm0.23$ $4.10\pm0.31$ $4.09\pm0.24$ $4.26\pm0.41$ $-0.474$ $-1.44$ $0.63$ $0.15$ $4.05\pm0.27$ $4.09\pm0.31$ $4.09\pm0.20$ $4.25\pm0.39$ $-0.50$ $-1.49$ $0.61$ $0.14$ $4.04\pm0.26$ $4.10\pm0.33$ $4.09\pm0.19$ $4.25\pm0.33$ $4.02\pm0.28$ $4.03\pm0.33$ $4.15\pm0.21$ $4.10\pm0.41$ $0.45$ $0.95$ $0.71$ $0.42$ $4.04\pm0.21$ $4.07\pm0.27$ $4.04\pm0.24$ $4.16\pm0.35$ $4.33\pm0.29$ $4.70\pm0.30$ $4.11\pm0.30$ $4.15\pm0.52$ $1.49$ $3.47$ $0.23$ $0.02*$	Reaction EvaluationLearning EvaluationBehavioral evaluationMean $\pm$ SDMean $\pm$ SDMean $\pm$ SD4.05 $\pm$ 0.204.08 $\pm$ 0.273.93 $\pm$ 0.264.10 $\pm$ 0.274.30 $\pm$ 0.443.99 $\pm$ 0.224.06 $\pm$ 0.284.12 $\pm$ 0.384.01 $\pm$ 0.440.171.550.280.830.220.754.06 $\pm$ 0.234.10 $\pm$ 0.313.93 $\pm$ 0.264.09 $\pm$ 0.244.26 $\pm$ 0.414.04 $\pm$ 0.36-0.474-1.44-1.160.630.150.244.05 $\pm$ 0.274.09 $\pm$ 0.313.90 $\pm$ 0.274.09 $\pm$ 0.204.25 $\pm$ 0.394.09 $\pm$ 0.28-0.50-1.49-2.180.610.140.03*4.04 $\pm$ 0.264.10 $\pm$ 0.333.86 $\pm$ 0.304.09 $\pm$ 0.194.25 $\pm$ 0.334.09 $\pm$ 0.294.15 $\pm$ 0.214.10 $\pm$ 0.413.90 $\pm$ 0.320.450.951.940.710.420.134.04 $\pm$ 0.214.07 $\pm$ 0.273.93 $\pm$ 0.264.04 $\pm$ 0.244.16 $\pm$ 0.353.90 $\pm$ 0.184.33 $\pm$ 0.294.70 $\pm$ 0.304.33 $\pm$ 0.294.11 $\pm$ 0.304.15 $\pm$ 0.524.02 $\pm$ 0.561.493.472.020.230.02*0.12

(6-10) Years(N=15)	4.15±0.19	4.12±0.24	4.03±0.23	4.01±0.32
(11-15) Years(N=7)	4.00±0.23	4.11±0.28	3.90±0.44	4.08±0.29
> = 6 Years(N=6)	4.07±0.28	4.31±0.54	4.06±0.24	4.04±0.39
'F' value	1.00	0.55	1.05	0.24
ʻp' value	0.41	0.64	0.37	0.86
Year of Services (N=45)				
< = 10 Years(N=5)	4.05±0.13	4.16±0.15	3.96±0.18	4.08±0.27
(11-15) Years(N=16)	4.08±0.23	4.04±0.29	3.90±0.29	3.96±0.37
(16-20) Years(N=12)	4.08±0.28	4.25±0.39	4.01±0.27	4.16±0.39
> = 21 Years(N=12)	4.04±0.23	4.16±0.40	3.98±0.35	4.13±0.40
'F' value	0.08	0.83	0.35	0.77
ʻp' value	0.97	0.48	0.78	0.51
Academic Year (N=45)				
2011-2013(N=11)	4.03±0.25	4.25±0.35	4.00±0.31	4.10±0.32
2014-2016(N=9)	4.00±0.34	3.93±0.35	3.78±0.34	3.79±0.45
2017-2019(N=25)	4.11±0.17	4.17±0.32	4.00±0.24	4.16±0.33
'F' value	0.94	2.47	2.09	3.64
ʻp' value	0.40	0.10	0.13	0.03*

(\*) means 0.05 level of significant

Table 1. Relationship between demographic characteristics and Kirkpatrick's evaluation

## B. Kirkpatrick's Four Level of Evaluation

When looking at the reaction evaluation, most of the respondents gave favourable agreement on the management of training, teaching skills of the trainers, and training methods, however, there was relatively weakness in the proper preparation of training contents by facilitators ( $3.86\pm0.45$ ), providing training materials ( $3.88\pm0.53$ ). Looking upon the learning evaluation responses, all of the respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction on their understandings and awareness. Regarding learning behaviour, majority agreed that they

can apply their learning to their workplace but comparatively lower response score was found in planning educational research ( $3.84\pm0.56$ ), how to apply educational theories in medical education practices ( $3.84\pm0.52$ ) and arrange an educational workshop programme ( $3.75\pm0.60$ ). Although the medical educator training affects the respondents to get better improvement in most faculty development activities, there is still a need to develop the participation of respondents in research development activities with comparatively lowest evaluation scores of ( $3.80\pm0.66$ ).

No.	Reaction Evaluation on Trainers, Training materials and contents	Mean± SD
1.	The objectives of the Medical Educator Training were clearly defined.	4.22 ±0.55
2.	Training methods were consistent with the objectives of the course.	4.15±0.47
3.	Supervisors (Trainers) were well prepared for the delivery of contents of the course.	4.15±0.47
4.	Facilitators (Trainers) were well prepared for the delivery of contents of the course.	3.86±0.45
5.	Trainers motivated the trainees to search for new concepts and for acquiring analytical and critical thinking skills,	4.00±0.47
	as a medical educator.	
6.	The logistic management of the medical educator training course is well organized.	4.06±0.53
7.	Trainers were proficient in facilitating the active participation of the trainees.	$4.04 \pm 0.42$
8.	The course was well organized and the training materials adequate to enable effective learning throughout the	3.88±0.53
	course.	
9.	The balance between theoretical and practical aspects was optimal	3.95±0.36
10.	Trainers had excellent communication skills as well as teaching skills to deliver the course.	4.24±0.52
11.	The time management of the training schedules was well planned.	4.20±0.45
	Learning Evaluation: Respondents' change in Knowledge, Attitude and Awareness after the Training	Mean±SD
12.	The steps involved in designing a curriculum unit became more understandable	4.13±0.50
13.	Awareness of how to use different types of teaching-learning strategies was accomplished	4.28±0.50
14.	Awareness of how to set up the educational objectives by three domains (Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor)	4.28±0.54
	became more apparent than before.	
15.	How to use teaching learning media effectively in medical education was attained	4.26±0.44
16.	Understanding for the application of the basic principles of educational psychology and adult learning became	4.02±0.54
	clearer	
17.	Acquaintance with different assessment methods for formative and summative assessments became useful to a	4.22±0.51
	greater extent than before.	
18.	The leadership role as a medical educator became more explicit	4.04±0.52
19.	The need for application of the principles and practices of communication skills in daily practice was fully	4.17±0.49
	appreciated.	
20.	How to do situational analysis and needs assessment for investigating an educational problem became apparent.	$4.00\pm0.52$
21.	Training for preparation of educational workshop with specific objectives was methodically accomplished.	4.00±0.52
22.	Behavioural Evaluation: Respondents' change in behaviour after the training	Mean±SD

	I was able to plan the curriculum for specific subjects or modules.	4.02±0.45
23.	I was able to use more than one teaching method (group work, lecture, and problem-based learning (PBL), etc)	4.08±0.41
	to achieve the educational objectives.	
24.	I was capable of using teaching-learning media effectively to motivate and facilitate the learning of students.	4.11±0.48
25.	I became competent in constructing module contents and objectives in a specific module or unit.	3.91±0.51
26.	I could apply educational theories in medical education practices.	3.84±0.52
27.	I could assess the students' performance using different types of assessment methods.	3.93±0.39
28.	I was able to deal and manage in daily clinical practice by applying principles and practice of communication skills	3.97±0.54
29.	I was able to deal and manage in daily teaching by applying principles and practice of communication skills.	3.97±0.39
30.	I was able to contribute to planning educational research for my own department.	3.84±0.56
31.	I was able to facilitate the active discussion of the student when teaching. (eg. Problem based-learning session)	4.11±0.48
32.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.	$3.75\pm0.60$
32. 33	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice. Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD
32. 33	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.  Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39
32. 33	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.  Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments.	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39
32. 33 34.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice. Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments. Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee.	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39 4.08±0.46
32. 33 34. 35.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.  Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments. Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee. After the training, I felt confident that students became more enthusiastic with my teaching strategy.	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39 4.08±0.46 4.15±0.52
32. 33 34. 35. 36.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.  Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training  Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments.  Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee.  After the training, I felt confident that students became more enthusiastic with my teaching strategy.  Attending medical educator training led to better interaction between students and teachers.	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39 4.08±0.46 4.15±0.52 4.24±0.48
32. 33 34. 35. 36. 37.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.  Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training  Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments.  Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee.  After the training, I felt confident that students became more enthusiastic with my teaching strategy.  Attending medical educator training led to better interaction between students and teachers.  After training, I became interested in medical education research more than before.	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39 4.08±0.46 4.15±0.52 4.24±0.48 4.11±0.61
32. 33 34. 35. 36. 37. 38.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice.  Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training  Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments.  Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee.  After the training, I felt confident that students became more enthusiastic with my teaching strategy.  Attending medical educator training led to better interaction between students and teachers.  After training, I became interested in medical education research more than before.  After training, I made more contribution to my own department for submitting research articles in a local conference	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39 4.08±0.46 4.15±0.52 4.24±0.48 4.11±0.61 3.80±0.66
32. 33 34. 35. 36. 37. 38.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice. Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments. Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee. After the training, I felt confident that students became more enthusiastic with my teaching strategy. Attending medical educator training led to better interaction between students and teachers. After training, I became interested in medical education research more than before. After training, I made more contribution to my own department for submitting research articles in a local conference or international conference	3.75±0.60 Mean±SD 4.06±0.39 4.08±0.46 4.15±0.52 4.24±0.48 4.11±0.61 3.80±0.66
32. 33 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39.	I could arrange an educational workshop program in medical education practice. Result Evaluation: Respondents' contribution to Organizational level after the training Training resulted in changing the way of my teaching by using appropriate teaching-learning strategies and assessments. Training resulted in my active participation in faculty development activities of the medical education committee. After the training, I felt confident that students became more enthusiastic with my teaching strategy. Attending medical educator training led to better interaction between students and teachers. After training, I became interested in medical education research more than before. After training, I made more contribution to my own department for submitting research articles in a local conference or international conference Training gave me more confidence to participate in the curriculum planning activities of the medical education	$\begin{array}{r} 3.75 \pm 0.60 \\ \hline \textbf{Mean} \pm \textbf{SD} \\ 4.06 \pm 0.39 \\ 4.08 \pm 0.46 \\ 4.15 \pm 0.52 \\ 4.24 \pm 0.48 \\ 4.11 \pm 0.61 \\ 3.80 \pm 0.66 \\ 4.06 \pm 0.49 \end{array}$

Table 2. Kirkpatrick's Four Level of Evaluation of Medical Educator Training

#### C. Key Challenges in Faculty Development

It was found that majority of the evaluation scores for the statement items in the faculty development area were much lower than the scores for the items in the training's impact. The most noticeable and lowest scores were found in the item of financial investment of medical educators  $(2.68\pm0.73)$ , research collaboration in other

universities  $(2.60\pm0.88)$  and networking with the international university for career development of medical educators  $(2.55\pm0.84)$ . However, they agreed that the currently used undergraduate curriculum of the institution is appropriate for them to practically apply their pedagogic skills gained from the training course.  $(4.17\pm0.71)$ .

No.	Statement	Mean±SD
1.	Depending on the performance in faculty development activities, our institution appreciates rewards for medical educators as an institutional policy.	2.80±0.75
2.	Medical educators in our university have the opportunity to apply the Institutional scholarship program for research and carrier development.	2.84±0.79
3.	The financial investment for medical educators in our institution is acceptable in the current situation. (e.g. teaching-learning materials, research facilities, ICT based technology)	2.68±0.73
4.	There are adequate networks and collaboration with an international university to promote the carrier development of medical educators. (e.g. MOU)	2.60±0.88
5.	ICT based medical education system in our university is well functioned and applicable.	2.73±0.80
6.	The number of medical educators in our university is sufficient to achieve the mission of our university.	2.71±0.84
7.	The institutions' current undergraduate curriculum is appropriate for us to practically apply the pedagogic skills gained from the training course.	4.17±0.71
8.	Research development activities of our university, including research funding, research skills of medical educators, and research facilities, are well functioning.	2.80±0.78
9.	The research collaboration with other universities or research centers to promote research innovation is acceptable.	2.55±0.84

Table 3. Key Challenges in faculty development in medical education by respondents

# IV. DISCUSSION

This study investigates the medical educator training program, which aims to develop the competency skills of medical educators who are involved in the faculty development activities at DSMA, Myanmar. Regarding the overall impact of the training, the respondents expressed their positive perception on the organisation of the program; the training improved their knowledge and attitudes as a medical educator; and it was practically applicable in their daily work. The positive perception of the training was not surprising because most of the trainees voluntarily attended the course and were highly motivated to accomplish self- improvement after attending the course. The findings are consistent with another study where 'overall satisfaction with faculty development programs was high, and they consistently found the program helpful, enjoyable and relevant to their objectives' (Steinert et al., 2016, p.779). Similarly, another study done by Yolsal et al. (2003) showed that the participants who enrolled in the similar training of trainers (TOT) course explored positive perception, and they agreed it was required to be acquainted with those kinds of instructional practices (Yolsal et al., 2003). The possible reason for the respondents' satisfaction with the impact of training in the current study, could also be due to the organized training preparation and training context and, the course itself used mainly a distance learning format with flexible training schedules for them when compared to other full-time courses in other specialties. It was also found that significant improvements in selfefficacy of medical educators in the domain of the teaching relevant subject contents and developing creative ways to cope with system constraints after experiencing 12 months faculty development program in Bhutan (Tenzin et al., 2019).

In this study, for learning evaluation, most respondents believed that they gained in terms of knowledge, attitude, and skills and that it had an impact on the teaching effectiveness. It revealed that most of the medical educators gained benefits after the training, and the increase in confidence facilitated them to become more involved in participating in faculty development activities and curriculum planning activities. Similarly, F.J. Ciller and N. Herman explained that as a goal of an educational development program, changes in attitudes and perception serves as a foundation for further changes in behaviour (Cilliers & Herman, 2010). Even more, the review articles of Steinert et al. (2016) highlighted most of the faculty development interventions focus on teaching effectiveness by improving their teaching skills, assessment skills, designing curriculum, and educational leadership skills (Steinert et al., 2016).

When analysing the relationship between the various demographic background and impact of the training, it was revealed that the job position, educational background, and difference in academic year among the respondents were significantly associated with the impact of training. There might be many possible reasons why this was significant. For example, the course preparation, the changes in placement of trainers in several years might also be a possible issue, and variation in individual performance also considered. However, in this survey, those factors were not explored. Fishbein et al. (2003) explained that interpersonal variation and the organization's favorable situation could be impact factors for behavioural change at the organization level (Fishbein et al., 2003).

In this study, although the self-reported changes showed self-actualization in individual performance to some extent, respondents are not contented with their learning environment in terms of institutional support. Institutional support plays a vital role in faculty development in medical education and every institution can meet its institutional mission and goals by enabling its faculty member to fulfil their particular purposes as teachers, scholars, and leaders according to the research outcome (Boucher et al., 2006). Moreover, Steinert pointed out that many factors are impeding the faculty development, such as unsupportive leadership, resistance to change, lack of faculty motivation, and the unwillingness of faculty to acquire the teaching skills and knowledge (Steinert, 2000).

On exploring the critical challenges of the medical educators, all the respondents believed that their institution should support more scholarship opportunity, academic recognition, networking with other universities in terms of research and professional development, and ICT-based medical education system. According to the survey of (Huwendiek et al., 2010) 806 medical educators from Association for Medical Education Europe (AMEE) revealed that the critical challenges of medical education were lack of academic recognition (40%), funding (36%), faculty development (24%), time for medical education issues (22%), and institutional support (21%) (Huwendiek et al., 2010).

Therefore, to accelerate the faculty development as a holistic approach, it is needed to consider not only training for faculty members but also other factors reward and recognition, ICT system, and networking. This requisite is not only in a military medical school, but internationally most medical schools are trying to support their faculty in accordance with the staff policy requirements as stated in the WFME Global standards for Quality improvement. However, the current research could gather only some self-reported changes in behaviour and whether the changes actually occurred in the workplace has not been proven by observation. Nevertheless, as the opinions were obtained from closed ended questionnaire statements, a further exploratory qualitative study is needed to obtain accurate information on the magnitude of the problem and the specific areas that needed further support from the institution.

# V. CONCLUSION

This study revealed the medical educator training could improve their required knowledge, attitude, and skills to practice in the teaching environment, the fundamental need for educational leadership, educational research, and communication skills in the health-care setting. The medical educators who need to be competent could not be motivated only from the training without institutional support. The respondents believed that their institution should encourage institutional support in terms of reward, recognition, scholar allowance, and collaboration with other academic institutions to promote research culture and professional development, ICTbased medical education.

To conclude, the findings of this study exclusively show that military medical schools in Myanmar still need to emphasize the professional identities of medical educators by encouraging institutional support, not just by only focusing on the faculty development training as a mandatory by institutional policy.

## Notes on Contributors

Tun Tun Naing reviewed the literatures and developed the conceptual framework and conducted the data analysis and wrote the discussion and conclusion. Finally, he developed the manuscript to submit to TAPS.

Yuriko Minamoto was involved in the formulation of research question and research framework to conduct the research systematically, application of evaluation tools and technique and, proofreading of original thesis and the manuscript.

Ye Phyo Aung participated in the research in the writing of research methodology session, conducted the data collection, and supported choosing research design, proper sampling methods and data collection tools and technique and proofreading of manuscript.

Marlar Than supported the construction of survey questionnaires which is the back bone of the evaluation research and contribute to proofreading of current manuscript.

# Ethical Approval

Ethics approval was granted by the Ethical Review Committee of the Defence Services Medical Academy, Yangon, Myanmar. (7 / Ethics 2019).

# Data Availability

The data that support the findings of this study are openlyavailableinFigsharerepository,http://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.17074637

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#### Declaration of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in the current research.

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