

NEEDS AND LACKS IN SPEAKING SKILL AMONG GENERAL MEDICINE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS OF HANOI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – A SURVEY REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Methods: In a cross-sectional survey utilizing a self-reported structured questionnaire, a sample of 277 general medicine first-year students from Hanoi Medical University agreed to be enrolled.

Results: The majority of general medicine students achieved the low marks, ranging from 1 – 5, for their English placement test, accounting for 68.6%, whereas there was only 6.1% of students' having good points, ranging from 8 – 10.

57.4% and 37.1% of participants considered English-speaking skill to be “very important” and “important” for their career development, respectively. And 48.3% and 39.7% of students stated that English-speaking skill was “very important” and “important” for further studying in the future.

82.2% of students were not confident enough to speak in English with others. And “lack of vocabulary and grammatical structures” was raised by 69.3% of participants as a reason for their in-confidence.

78.3% of students did not know how to paraphrase the prompts during practicing the speaking skill. 72.5% and 54.1% of students had difficulty in giving explanation and giving examples, respectively, for their main ideas.

Activities including giving presentations, speaking on telephones, speaking at meeting, speaking at medical setting and speaking at social settings were all stated to be important in students' speaking practice.

72.5% of participants expected the high frequency of practicing pronunciation in the next term. Following were the oral presentation skill (62%), discussion skill (55.5%) and conversation skill (55.2%).

Keywords: Learning needs, wants, lacks, speaking skill, Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam.