

NEEDS AND LACKS IN WRITING 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: 42.9% and 45.4% of participants considered English-writing skill to be “very important” and “important” for their career development, respectively. And 36.8% and 48.3% of students stated that English-writing skill was “very important” and “important” for further studying in the future.

81.4% of students were not confident enough to have written communication in English with others. And “lack of vocabulary and grammatical structures” was raised by 83.9% of participants as a reason for their in-confidence.

Regarding the subskill of “writing topic sentences and conclusion sentences”, 18,7% and 41,1% of students reported that they “usually” and “sometimes” had difficulty, respectively. With the subskill of “connecting and writing supporting sentences”, 21.6% and 40,4% of students stated that they “usually” and “sometimes” had difficulty, respectively. And 20,2% and 37,9% of students reported that they “usually” and “sometimes” had difficulty in “organizing and structuring writing types, e.g. formal letter, informal letter, discussive essay”, respectively.

68.3% of students expected the high frequency of practicing “writing short tweets on given topics”. Following were “detecting and correcting mistakes” (59%), “paraphrasing” (52.6%) and “writing emails” (50%). “Writing posters, Ads or TV commercials” was expected by the smallest number of participants, with only 30,2%

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