

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide for students and clinician-teachers

I. Introductory section for FDG

Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this FGD.

My name is ----- I am working on this research conducted by Jhpiego-Ethiopia as a data collector/ assessor. I want to ask you some questions and will be invited to participate in this FGD session. Before the questions, I will provide you with full information about this study so that you can decide whether or not to take part in the data collection process using a consent form.

This study is a part of a big research project that has intended to assess the clinical competence of graduating medical students and associated factors in Ethiopia. The objective of this qualitative arm of the research is to assess the impact of medical education expansion on the quality of clinical placements for medical students. You have been asked to participate as your point of view is important. I realize you are busy and I appreciate your time. The focus group discussion will take no more than two hours.

II. Ground rules

- Only one person speaks at a time. There may be a temptation to jump in when someone is talking but please wait until they have finished.
  - There are no right or wrong answers.
  - You do not have to speak in any particular order.
  - When you do have something to say, please do so.
  - You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group.
  - I'm now going to ask you some questions that I would like you to answer to the best of your ability. If you do not know the answer, please say so.
  - Does anyone have any questions? (answers). OK, let's begin
- (Note to FGD discussant: You may need to probe to gather the information you need).

III. General information

S. N°	Interview type	Response/description
1	Region	
2	Type/ownership of medical schools (public or private)	
3	Location of the FGD	
4	Type of FGD participants (clinician-teachers or students)	
5	Code of discussant	

6	The date of discussion held	
7	Starting time	
8	Ending time	
9	General observations/comments e.g., discussion cut, short, noisy environment, etc.	

IV. FGD Participants’ background characteristics

Code of participants	Address (school /hospital)	Age	Sex	job	Professional background	Work experience related to undergraduate medical education	Remark for any additional and relevant
01							
02							
03							
04							
05							
06							
07							
08							

V. Main FGD Questions

Warm-up question
First, I'd like everyone to introduce themselves. Can you tell us your name and experiences

**Guiding questions**

1. What do you say about the level of clinical competence of graduating medical students?  
[Probes: which essential competencies do they fail to master? Why? give concrete examples]
2. Describe how the training expansion impacted the quality and sufficiency of clinical placement of medical students.  
[Probes: clinical exposure of students, clinical teaching skills of faculty and preceptors, feedback given to students, clinical skills evaluation]
3. What factors facilitated the development of clinical competencies by medical students?  
(probes: number of students, clinical learning environment, variety of clinical settings, clinician-teachers, teaching strategies, residents and hospital staff)
4. What major challenges have affected the attainment of clinical competencies by medical students?  
[Probes: student number and readiness, preceptor number and motivation, patient number and variety, clinical learning environment, supporting staff, medical supplies]
5. Which interventions and responses were taken to address the challenges and strengthen clinical placement?
6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

**Concluding question:**

Of all the things we've discussed today, what would you say are the most important issues you would like to express about the clinical placement of medical graduates?

**Wrap-up**

Thank you for participating. This has been a very successful discussion. Your opinions will be a valuable asset to the study. We hope you have found the discussion interesting. If there is anything you are unhappy with or wish to complain about, please contact the local PI or speak to me later. I would like to remind you that any comments featured in this report will be anonymous. Before you leave, please hand in your completed personal details questionnaire. Please, write your report based on the results of the focus group. Please remember to maintain the confidentiality of the participating individuals by not disclosing their names.