SECOND YEAR STUDENTS’ OPINION ON THEIR PERFORMANCE IN A COMPULSORY GROUP PROJECT

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INTRODUCTION

The distribution of ECTS credits within any subject typically includes three major blocks: theory, practical and projects or seminars. Such three blocks, normally, are taken into account in order of assessing the performance in any subject. In most of the compulsory subjects of the degree in Physiotherapy at University of Vigo, the completion of a group or individual project is necessary to pass, however the model of such project could vary based upon each subject.

OBJECTIVE

To analyse second year Physiotherapy students’ opinion on their performance in a compulsory group project of the subject “General Physiotherapy” at University of Vigo.

METHODOLOGY

Timing and design

A cross-sectional descriptive study was developed. The study has been carried out at the end of the first semester of the academic course 2014-2015 in the Faculty of Physiotherapy, University of Vigo, Spain.

Subjects

54 second year Physiotherapy students enrolled in the subject “General Physiotherapy” (65.71% of the enrolled). The 54 students who had participated in the study were divided in 12 work groups.

Instruments

The questionnaire used was the Spanish version of the questionnaire on group project work by Bourner, Hughes y Bourner [1], an adapted form on the questionnaire by Garvin el al. [2]. It is a self-assessment questionnaire for the perception of the students on a group project, and in our study it was used after the compulsory work project of the subject above commented. The questionnaire includes 17 items. For the current study, the items 1 to 11 were used, except the open-ended questions (questions 5 and 8).

Participation

Was voluntary.

Statistical analysis

The descriptive statistical analysis was done using SPSS. Results are expressed in absolute frequencies and proportions or percentages, and in means and standard deviations. To compare variables, the Pearson index and the T-student test were used. Significant differences were calculated for a p value of <0.05.

RESULTS

The main results are shown in table 1 and in figures 1, 2, 3 and 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question*</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Work together on the project</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>.802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. At the end of the project I felt…</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>.906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The beginning of the Project I felt…</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>.816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Descriptive data of the three first questions of the questionnaire.

CONCLUSION

The second year physiotherapy students at University of Vigo seem to assess positively their performance in the project included in the subject “General Physiotherapy”. However, although most of the groups seemed to had worked in good working atmosphere, few of them had punctual problems.

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All the students implicated in the study.