



## **SURVEY OF MEDICAL STUDENTS' INTEREST IN CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION IN KABUL, 2021-2022**

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<p><b>Received:</b> January 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 <b>Accepted:</b> February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 <b>Published:</b> April 6<sup>th</sup> 2022</p>	<p><b>Introduction:</b> Science and knowledge is the main way for humans to improve their lifestyle and ease of life. In general, all countries are trying to play an important role in creating a stable country by providing appropriate and excellent educational services, in which the young generation has an important and key role. The young generation with education can be a source of service in their society, however due to some problems in society, it causes the interest to continue education in the capable class of society to decrease.</p> <p><b>Objectives of the Research:</b> The main purpose of this research is to examine and determine the level of interest in continuing education among medical students in Kabul and the important factors in making this decision.</p> <p><b>Research Method:</b> This research is a cross-sectional descriptive, prospective study in which a questionnaire prepared in medical educational institutions in Kabul was distributed during the six months of 2021 and 2022, and after collecting data, the results were reviewed.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> In this study, information was collected from 867 medical students in Kabul. According to the data obtained from this study, 617 medical students (71.2%) were interested in continuing their studies in their respective fields. The main reasons for their interest in continuing their studies with medical students in Kabul are relatives (21.6%), the usefulness of medicine (21.1%) and the needs of society (19.7%). Also, the main reasons for reluctance and disinterest to continue studying in medical fields can be considered as: the difficulty of the field of study (35.1%), the prevailing difficulties in society (25.1%) and economic problems (15.7%).</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Science and knowledge is the basis of a nation's progress, which has several factors affecting the interest of young people in the continuation of science and knowledge. Challenges created in the field of education can be addressed by identifying these factors and creating appropriate measures.</p>

**Keywords:** interest in education, medical students and Kabul city

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Today, in developed societies, education and learning are considered as the most fundamental activities of life, and every person should devote hours of the day increasing their knowledge, because the survival and permanence of any society is related to acquiring information and learning it in life<sup>3</sup>. However, one of the most basic requirements for learning and success is interest in education<sup>2</sup>. Interest can be considered as a combination of curiosity and motivation, which is in fact an effective and motivating force in doing work<sup>1</sup>. Motivation is an important factor in explaining the reasons for behavior and guiding it to

achieve goals, and it is a set of forces that make a person act in certain ways. Motivation as a set of factors defines human activity and movement and leads to a specific goal. Humans have different motivations in doing their jobs, including studying and learning, and in this regard, people choose their field of study and enter the University for Various Motives that are influenced by factors such as social acceptance, personal interests, growth needs and physiology<sup>2</sup>. What can shape a person's evaluation of their field of study while studying at university and subsequently affect their study satisfaction are the factors that have guided the student's choice of field



of study from the beginning and before entering the university. Regarding the factors affecting the choice of field of study, several studies have been conducted in the country and abroad, each of which has identified one or more factors as effective factors in choosing the field of study. Of course, the social and economic conditions of each society can give a different role to different factors and increase or decrease the share of a person's choice and interest in choosing a field<sup>12</sup>. There are several factors that affect the satisfaction of education, some of which are individual and some environmental<sup>5</sup>. Some researchers have shown that the culture of the educational institution is one of the environmental factors that can affect the satisfaction of education. In addition, the curriculum, teaching team, management system of the educational institution, course content, teaching methods and assessment methods are among the factors that affect student satisfaction<sup>1</sup>. Universities are one of the most important factors in the growth of a country because they are responsible for admitting and educating students in various fields<sup>6</sup>. Providing and maintaining the health of the community has a special role in the economic, and social development of the communities, and improving the quality of health services is one of the important factors in the development of the country. Therefore, paying attention to how to train the required manpower to manage and perform health services is of special importance<sup>4</sup>. It is important to note that only human resource planning and training do not improve health care in the community and require proper management. Training efficient graduates is prone to interest in the educational priorities of any educational institution

## 2. RESEARCH PURPOSES

The main purpose of this study is to determine the level of interest of medical students to continue their education in Kabul during the second six months of educational year (autumn semester) equivalent to 2021 to 2022.

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This is a prospective descriptive cross-sectional study, in which the required data were collected via a questionnaire. The demographic information of medical students and questions pertaining the research topic are included in the questionnaire. The process of collecting data from 5 higher education institutions (universities) and semi-higher education institutions (institutes) in Kabul took place in 6 months.

## 4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

During and after the research, all data related to the participants were preserved and no compulsion was made to participate in the above research.

## 5. DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting the research data, the required data were analyzed by programs such as Microsoft Excel and SPSS version 27.0.00. quantitative and qualitative data were provided by appropriate charts and tables.

## 6. RESULTS

Considering the variables related to this research, after collecting and analyzing the research data, the following results have been obtained:

- Age: All participants in this study, according to their age are divided into four categories (below 20 years, 21 to 30 years, 31 to 40 years and over 40 years). Table (1) lists the age information of the participants (frequency and percentage):

**Table (1):** Frequency and percentage of age categories of participants

Age Categories	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Below 20 years	371	42.8
21 to 30 years	466	53.7
31 to 40 years	30	3.5
Total	867	100



- Gender: Of the 867 students participating in this study, 600 are male (69.2%) and 267 are female (30.8%).

- Location: Out of 867 students participating in this study, 612 students live in Kabul city (70.6%) and 255 students (29.4%) live in other provinces of the country.

- Economic status: Considering the economic status of the students (participants), they were divided into four categories (excellent, good, intermediate and poor). Table (2) contains information related to the economic status of the students participating in the study:

**Table (2):** *Economic status of participants*

<b>Economic Status</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Excellent	48	5.5
Good	204	23.5
Intermediate	285	32.9
Poor	330	38.1
Total	867	100

- Parents' Education: Considering the parents' education of the students participating in the research, categories (illiterate, primary, secondary and high)

were divided. Table (3) provides information pertaining the education of the parents of the students participating in the research:

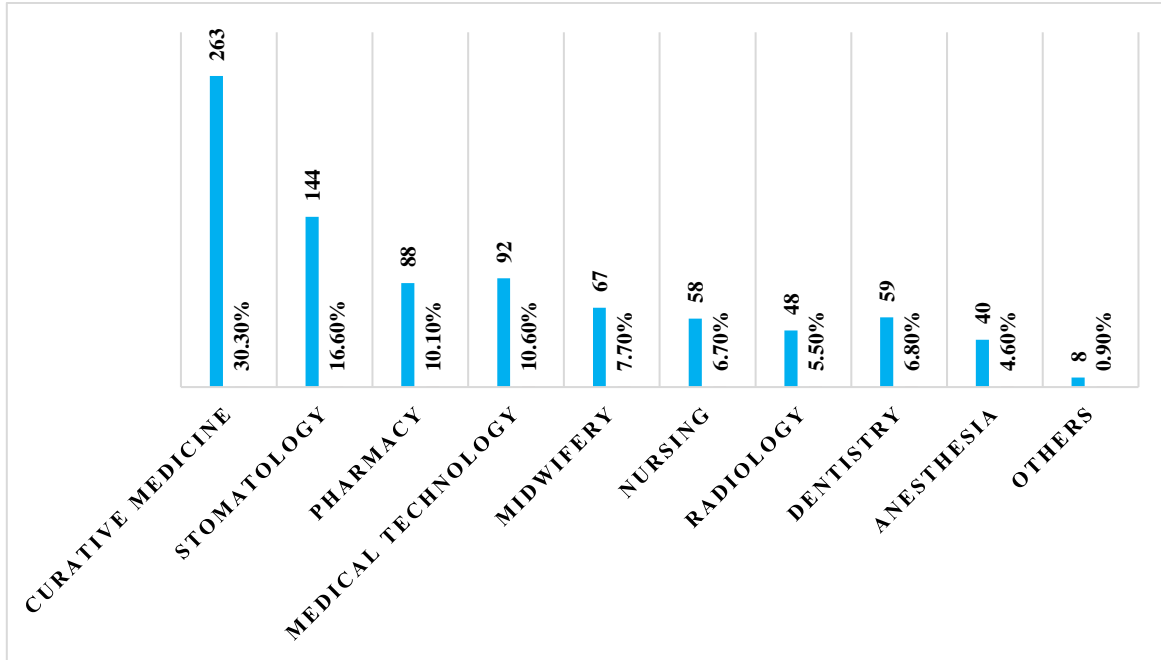
**Table (3):** *Education of the participants' parents*

<b>Education</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Illiterate	140	16.1
Primary	356	41.1
Secondary	220	25.4
High	151	17.4
Total	867	100

- Degree: Out of 867 students participating in the current study, 213 students (24.6%) are studying in semi-higher medical institutions and 654 students (75.4%) are studying in higher medical institutions.

- Field of study: Out of 867 students participating in this research, 263 students majoring in curative medicine (CM), 144 students majoring stomatology (SM), 88 students majoring in pharmacy (PH), 92

students of medical technology (MT), 67 students of midwifery (MW), 58 students of nursing (N), 48 students of radiology (R), 59 students of dentistry (Dm), 40 students of anesthesia (AT) and 8 students of other medical fields. In chart (1), frequency and percentage of fields of study, students participating in the research are presented

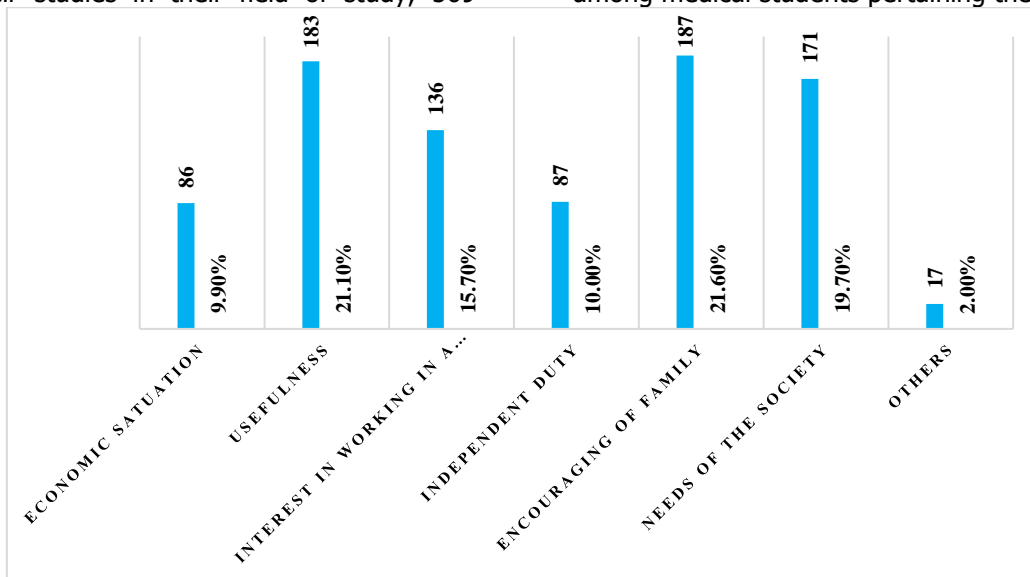


**Chart (1):** Fields of study of all participates

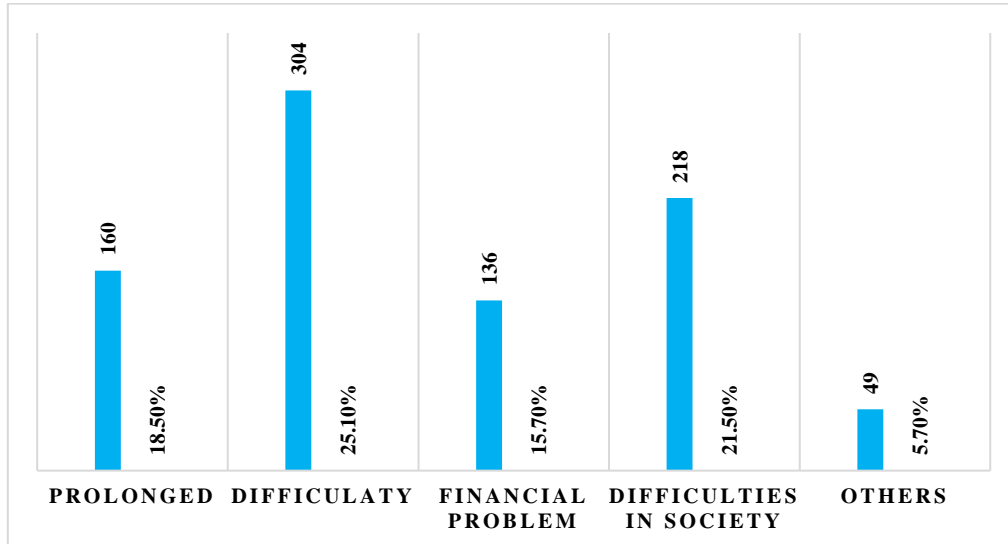
- Academic Semester: Out of 867 students participating in this study, 313 students (36.1%), are studying in first to fourth semesters, 476 students (54.9%) in fifth to eighth semesters and 78 students (9.0%) in ninth to twelfth. semester the ninth twelfth semesters.

- Specific Questions: Out of 867 participants in this study, 617 students (71.2%) are interested in continuing their studies in their field of study, 569

students (65.6%) even recommend this field of study to others. Also, the main reason among medical students for the interest to continue studying in the current study is encouragement of family and friends (21.6%). And the main reason for reluctance to continue studying in medical fields is the complexity of the field of study (35.1%). The following charts (2) and (3), presents the factors of interest and reluctance among medical students pertaining their education:



**Chart (2):** Factors of interest to continue education



**Chart (3):** Factors of lack of interest in continuing education

## 7. DISCUSSION

In a study conducted by Zeinab Sadat Rouh Al-Amini and colleagues in 1399 (equivalent to 2021) with students of Kerman University of Medical Sciences, 201 students were enrolled in the study; of which 98% were interested in continuing their studies in their field. That the statistics of interest in continuing education are higher compared to our study.<sup>13</sup> In a study of over 2850 underage students and midwives, Kosgeroglu et al. identified internal and external motivations for choosing a profession, which according to this study, the motivation to choose a profession and continue it is higher among women than men<sup>11</sup>. In a study conducted by Gilavand in 2005, over 484 PhD students, 176 students were included in the study; of which 118 were females and 58 were males. The highest number of male students is in the fourth academic year and the highest number of female students is in the first academic year. Most male and female students in the age category are between 21 and 25 years old. Also, 59% of the students who participated in the study wanted to continue their education, and factors such as: being tired education and problems caused by failing the exam have caused their lack of interest in continuing their education<sup>9</sup>. The tendency to continue education is lower than the statistics of our study. In a study conducted by

Shakornia et al., in 2013, over 247 students in the field of pharmacy, 208 students were included in the study. The most important factor in choosing pharmacy field and continuing to study in it is income and job opportunities in the future, and the lowest factor in continuing to study this medical field is friends' encouragement. However, the main reason for continuing to study in medical fields is friends' advice and recommendation in Kabul city according to the statistics obtained from this research.<sup>14</sup> In a study conducted by Qara Aghaji et al. between 1990 and 1992 on 129 radiology students, 80 were male and 49 were female; of which 74.4% were interested in continuing their studies. Among the factors that have caused students to continue their education in the mentioned field, we can mention job opportunity (61.5%)<sup>8</sup>.

## 8. CONCLUSION

Motivation is one of the main stimulants to do a certain activity or work; having a healthy motivation can help to continue education in the right way. Unfortunately, due to the existence of some problems in our current society, the motivation of young people to continue their education has decreased, which causes irreparable damage to the body of developing societies.



## 9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Not available.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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