Emergency Medicine (EM) is a new and developing specialty around the world. In India, one model for capacity building involves the development of partnerships between US academic institutions and private healthcare institutions for implementing post-graduate education and training in EM. Starting in 2007, the programs were initiated in response to the burden of disease in India increasingly shifting from communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases and trauma. Over the years these programs have grown both in number and scope and have continued to attract new students and partner institutions.

INTRODUCTION

A mixed-methods evaluation was undertaken at 9 program sites across India. Two researchers conducted onsite semi-structured interviews with key program stakeholders. Interviews were recorded, transcribed and then analyzed using a rapid assessment process. Participants also completed a brief survey. Written surveys were analyzed with univariate analysis.

METHODS

Evaluation of a changing system of emergency care has proven challenging to study. These data reflect substantial impacts to a hospital and the surrounding system after development of an EM training program, extending beyond the hospital itself to community outreach programs and a wide variety of education and training programs. Further investigation may prove helpful in quantifying the reported improvement in quality and scope of impact.

RESULTS

Quality of Care
- “I can say that the delivery of emergency care has undergone a tectonic shift after the [training] program has started.” (Administrator)

The Health Facility
- “The quality of interaction, the quality of clinical care is extremely good… because of this quality, we have more and more patients coming into the ED.” (Administrator)

CONCLUSIONS

Evaluation of a changing system of emergency care has proven challenging to study. These data reflect substantial impacts to a hospital and the surrounding system after development of an EM training program, extending beyond the hospital itself to community outreach programs and a wide variety of education and training programs. Further investigation may prove helpful in quantifying the reported improvement in quality and scope of impact.

REFERENCE


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