Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs) about neurocognitive disorders of health students in Low- and Middle-Income countries (LMICs): preliminary results from two Sub-Saharan African Countries

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Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs) about neurocognitive disorders of health students in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs): preliminary results from two Sub-Saharan African Countries

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Context of the study

- Increasing number of people living with neurocognitive disorders (dementia), epilepsy or mental health disorders: a worldwide challenge, especially in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)
- Very few published studies about KAPs in dementia, compared to other major chronic diseases such as epilepsy (Souza et al., 2018; Vodougnon et al., 2019)
- These studies aim to help Universities complete and improve curriculum: future healthcare professionals are prepared to take on the challenges of dementia in everyday practice.

Objectives

- To evaluate knowledge, attitudes and practices of future doctors, pharmacists and nurses in 12 LMICs
- To present the KAPs results on neurocognitive disorders (dementia) of Gabon and Benin

Methods

Type: Cross sectional survey
Data collection: Questionnaires designed by national experts in France
- Developed in French, English, Spanish, Lao and Khmer versions
- Self-administered questionnaires linked to a database management system
Sample: All students in the last year of medicine, pharmacy and nurse studies
Tools: Socio demographic information
- 4 domains: knowledge (K), attitudes (A), practices (P) and a specialized domain (MSp, PhSp, NSp)
- 5 questions per domain: total of 20 main questions
- Secondary questions are not included in the main score
Guidelines: STROBE initiative for observational studies in epidemiology

Results

Study population
- A total of 172 students participated, 75 from Gabon and 109 from Benin
- Students in Gabon were older (p < 0.0001), and more often female (p = 0.005)
- More informed about dementia in Gabon (p = 0.02)
- In both countries, approximately half of the students had been in contact with a person living with dementia (61% and 52%, p = 0.23)

KAPs score
- Global scores in K, A and P were good to very good: 67% to 79% correct answers (without differences between Gabon and Benin)
- Medicine students scored better in Gabon than in Benin (p=0.04) and pharmacy and nurses students scored better in Benin than in Gabon (p=0.03 and p=0.04)

Discussion

- These first results in Gabon and Benin show good and very good global scores
- The ongoing KAPs study is planned to take place in 9 to 12 LMIC from 2021 to 2023
- Other African countries are involved (Cameroon and Madagascar), as well as South American and South-Eastern Asian countries (see map)

Perspectives

- A DELPHI survey is planned with experts on a national and on a regional level to establish recommendations
- Participation is still available for other countries who wish to get involved