Non-Cognitive Predictors of Student Success: A Predictive Validity Comparison Between Domestic and International Students

BACKGROUND

Sowa Rigpa, meaning “science of healing,” is commonly practiced in the Spiti Valley region of the Himalayas in India. It has recently gained official recognition as a form of traditional medicine in the country. The objective is to integrate it with the practice of conventional medicine as recommended by the World Health Organization. The expected outcome is a robust national health system advancing primary healthcare and universal health coverage. Currently, it is critical to understand utilization of Sowa Rigpa; when, why and how individuals approach its practitioners, the Amchis, mostly equipped with medical knowledge transmitted over six or more generations. This will also explain the intersection of Sowa Rigpa with conventional medicine.

METHODS

A cross-sectional study design with convenient sampling was used. 67 consenting adults from 5 villages of the Spiti Valley were interviewed using a modified and translated version of National Family Health Survey-4 questionnaire. Data was analyzed using STATA 14 (StataCorp).

RESULTS

PRESENTERS:
Sanila Math
Michelle Allard
TP Singh (PI)

The healthcare system in Spiti Valley, India utilizes a blend of ethnomedicine and conventional (western) medicine.

CONCLUSION

Sowa Rigpa is widely utilized in Spiti Valley. Utilization is a ‘step-like’ structure where individuals visit the Amchi first before accessing a clinic or hospital. Optimal support to Sowa Rigpa can potentially lower burden of disease and improve quality of life. It has the credentials for an integrated, universal, respectful and culturally appropriate primary care in remote areas of Spiti Valley and elsewhere.

ETHICAL CLEARANCE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study was approved by the University of Utah Institutional Review Board. We thank the people of Spiti and Ecosphere’s management and staff for their support during the conduct of this study.