

A short report of the Epidemiology Research Training Course VIII-2

The Epidemiology Research Training Course VIII-2 took place at University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City between 19 and 23 August 2019. The number of registrations for the course was 41 in total. While the body of participants were predominantly medical doctors (especially early-career medical doctors with less than 5 years of clinical experience), it also included a nurse, pharmacists and medical students. At the end of the course, 30 participants who attended the required number of modules were awarded a certificate of attendance. Lectures on “meaning of p value and 95%CI”, “basic statistics tests”, “multivariable analysis” and “analysis of clinical data” were delivered in the course. In addition to these epidemiology topics, the content of the course included lectures on new topics such as “patients health literacy skills”, “our health literacy skills”, “special lecture on ‘care’” and “EBM on water pipe tobacco”, and an examination and group presentations. Inclusion of these topics in the course reflected the changing definition of health and evolving approach of medical research.

In terms of pedagogy, the course fostered interactive exercises and presentations instead of offering participants traditional (more didactic) lectures. This pedagogical change took place in 2016 to foster participants’ familiarity and confidence in an English-speaking environment. As of 2019, many participants showed their active participation and confidence in discussion and presentation in English. Also, some participants were asked to be interviewed by one member of the organising team for project evaluation purpose. Notable was that they were not only willing to provide comments on the course and their participation, but they were also willing to share other thoughts with him. Although they shall remain anonymous, knowing their comments and thoughts will be valuable for fostering the Vietnam-Japan partnership in future.

Besides, an intensive version of the research training course organized by An Giang Health Service took place at Hanh Phuc General Hospital on 24 and 25 August 2019. About 100 local medical doctors participated in this course. The organising team more relied on English-to-Vietnamese interpretations there. But most of the participants were making efforts to focus on the lecture content because of the intensive design of the course and showing their active participation in the lectures in spite of the intensive design.



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