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Exploring the Path of Cultivating Employability of Medical College Students under Practice Orientation

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Abstract: With the continuous development of the medical industry, the employment situation of medical specialty college students is also gradually intensifying. Therefore, how to improve students' employability and competitiveness through a practice-oriented approach has become a problem that needs to be solved in medical specialty education. This paper proposes a four-point strategy based on practice orientation: providing rich internship and practical training opportunities, carrying out diversified scientific research projects, setting up relevant professional practice courses, and cultivating students' professional ethical qualities, to provide medical students with a perfect program for cultivating their employability and promoting the development and innovation of the medical specialty.

Keywords: practice-oriented; medical specialty; college students; employability; cultivation pathway

Introduction

Medical specialty is a highly specialized discipline, which is an important way to cultivate medical talents based on theory and practice. However, in the context of fierce competition in the medical service industry, traditional theoretical education alone cannot meet the employment needs of college students majoring in medicine. Therefore, it is of great significance to explore the path of cultivating the employment ability of medical specialty college students under practice orientation to improve their overall quality and employment competitiveness.

1. Exploration of the Current Situation of the Cultivation of Employment Ability of Medical Specialty College Students

1.1. Relatively single knowledge structure

In the cultivation of the employment ability of medical college students, there exists the problem of a relatively single knowledge structure. On the one hand, it is reflected in the relative solidification of the knowledge structure of the medical specialty. With the progress of medical technology and medical research, new medical fields and interdisciplinary disciplines continue to emerge, such as genetic medicine, biomedical engineering, medical imaging, and so on. However, in traditional medical education, there is relatively little knowledge learning and cultivation of these emerging fields, resulting in the relatively weak competitiveness of medical specialty college students in the job market (Xu, 2019). On the other hand, it is reflected in the lack of diversity in the knowledge structure of the medical specialty. Traditional medical education focuses on the teaching of theoretical knowledge, but the cultivation of practical skills and comprehensive quality is relatively insufficient. Students of medical specialties are mainly engaged in theoretical learning and experimental operation in classrooms and laboratories in their school studies, and they lack contact with actual medical scenarios and practical exercises. In addition, the knowledge structure of medical specialties often lacks cross-fertilization

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with other disciplines. The medical field is closely related to biology, chemistry, informatics, and other disciplines, but in traditional medical education, the learning and application of knowledge in these cross-disciplines are limited, resulting in a relatively single knowledge structure of medical students, which makes it difficult for them to adapt to the complex and changeable medical environment and market demand.

1.2. Lack of practice opportunities

Medical specialty is a highly practical discipline, which requires students to have a solid theoretical foundation and rich practical experience. However, there is a problem of "lack of practical exercise opportunities" in the cultivation of the employment ability of medical students. Medical students focus on the mastery of theoretical knowledge in classroom learning but often lack the opportunity to practice (Hu, 2023). Because the medical profession involves human anatomy, surgical skills, case analysis, and other practical content, only through classroom teaching can not make students master operational skills and clinical experience. The lack of practical exercise opportunities leads to the fact that students cannot accumulate experience from practice and cannot adapt to real clinical situations. At the same time, due to the special characteristics of medical specialties, the practical operation needs to have a certain environment and conditions. However, in university education, many schools or faculties have limited laboratory equipment and medical facilities, and students' opportunities for practice are somewhat limited (Xia & Liu, 2023). Some students can even only rely on simulated or virtual experiments as a substitute for real operating experience, which cannot achieve a real practical effect. In addition, although an internship is an important way for medical college students to obtain real clinical operation experience, many schools find it difficult to provide sufficient internship opportunities for students due to policy restrictions of medical institutions and insufficient faculty. Some students may only be able to carry out simple observation and auxiliary work during the internship, unable to participate in clinical practice.

1.3. Insufficient cultivation of scientific research ability

With the continuous updating and upgrading of medical technology, there is a growing demand for high-level research-oriented doctors in the medical field. However, in the current medical education, "insufficient cultivation of scientific research ability" has become a key problem hindering the development of medical students. In the process of medical study, many students tend to focus on theoretical knowledge and neglect the importance of scientific research. There are many reasons for this phenomenon, such as the complexity of the specialized knowledge system, students may feel the need to invest too much time and energy, thus creating greater pressure. These factors make students rely too much on theoretical learning and fail to emphasize the cultivation of scientific research ability. At the same time, schools are also deficient in cultivating the research ability of medical college students. Despite the gradual increase of research universities, the education of medical majors in many colleges and universities remains in the traditional classroom teaching mode. In this mode, students often only learn basic theoretical knowledge and cannot think and solve problems independently (Liu, 2023). Medical students need to solve many problems in practice, such as case analysis treatment plan design, etc., but the research opportunities and mentorship provided by schools are relatively limited. In addition, scientific research in the field of medicine is demanding and requires a high level of theoretical literacy and practical experience to achieve substantial research results. However, many students in the current education of medical specialties lack the relevant knowledge and skills to carry out truly meaningful scientific research. At the same time, scientific research in the field of medicine requires a high degree of attention to details and other factors, while the time and energy of medical students are also affected by clinical internships and other factors, making it difficult for them to devote enough energy to scientific research.

2. The Path of Cultivating the Employment Ability of Medical Students under the Practice-orientation

2.1. Provide abundant internship and practical training opportunities

In the process of improving the employability of medical students, providing rich internship training opportunities is a very important strategy. Through practice-oriented internship training, students can gain more practical experience, which will enhance their practical ability and problem-solving abilities and lay a solid foundation for their future employment. To provide abundant internship training opportunities, schools can actively cooperate with medical institutions and clinical internship bases, etc., to strive for more practical opportunities (Fang, 2022). Cooperation with medical institutions can expose students to real clinical environments and workflows, and learn the most cutting-edge medical technology and operation norms. Such field learning opportunities can help students understand medical knowledge more intuitively and enhance their professional skills. At the same time, schools can also set up their simulated clinical laboratories to provide realistic and palpable experimental scenarios for students to practice in a safe environment. It is also necessary to design and implement a systematic internship training program. This program can include different stages of internship practical training content, and gradually increase the difficulty and requirements of students' practical operation. For example, in the early stage, students can be arranged to carry out basic practical training, such as basic medical operations, case analysis, and so on. As students' learning progresses, they can be gradually guided to participate in more complex clinical practice, such as observation in the operating room, ward inspections, and communication with patients. Through a systematic internship training program, students can gradually master the skills and knowledge required for medical practice.

2.2. Conducting diversified scientific research programs

Carrying out diversified scientific research projects is an important aspect of the strategy of strengthening the cultivation of medical students' employability. Through carrying out scientific research programs, students can improve their scientific literacy and ability, enhance their comprehensive ability and competitiveness, and lay a good foundation for their future career development. In this regard, schools should actively promote the development of scientific research programs. A special scientific research organization can be set up, with experienced teachers or industry experts acting as supervisors and organizing students to research relevant topics. Such a structure can ensure that students receive adequate support and guidance in the research process, helping them better understand and apply what they have learned. At the same time, schools can also establish close partnerships with medical institutions, research institutes, and other organizations to carry out scientific research projects. This mode of cooperation provides students with a broader research space and resources so that they can be exposed to a wider range of medical problems and find solutions through scientific research. In addition, schools should conduct diverse and comprehensive scientific research projects according to students' interests and specialties (Lin, 2023). Students can be guided to choose suitable research topics from different fields of medical specialties, such as drug research, disease treatment and prevention, and medical equipment development. Students can also be encouraged to carry out interdisciplinary research, combining modern technological means such as informatics and statistics to explore new problems and solutions in the medical field. Such diversified research projects can expand students' vision and thinking, and improve their innovative ability and comprehensive quality. In terms of practice, schools should focus on letting students understand the complexity and practical difficulty of the medical field in deep practice. Students' experimental ability and operation skills can be cultivated through simulation experiments, field research, clinical internships, and other ways to improve their practical ability and experimental level.

2.3. Setting up relevant professional practice courses

To strengthen the cultivation of medical college students' employability, it is an important initiative to set up relevant professional practice courses. These courses aim to provide students with opportunities to come into contact with real medical work scenarios through practical operations and hands-on sessions, to cultivate their practical abilities, clinical skills, and professionalism. The medical profession involves a wealth of theoretical knowledge, but the skills cannot be fully mastered through classroom teaching alone. Through relevant practical courses, students can perform practical operations in real medical environments, such as simulated surgeries, case analyses, patient diagnoses, and so on. This helps students to apply the theoretical knowledge they have learned to real work and enhance their practical operation ability. Meanwhile, the related professional practice courses can provide students with opportunities to come into contact with real medical work scenarios. Through interaction with clinicians, nurses, and other professionals, students can understand the process and requirements of real medical work. They can observe and participate in various clinical operations, understand the workflow of the healthcare team, and master the terminology and processes. This kind of practical experience helps students better adapt to the future employment environment and familiarize themselves with and understand the work requirements of the medical industry in advance. In addition, the related professional practice courses can develop students' clinical skills and professionalism. Through practical and simulation exercises, students can improve their clinical skills, as well as learn and develop good communication skills, teamwork spirit, professional ethics, and professional norms (Hu, 2019). These are the qualities and abilities necessary for medical professional practitioners, which can enhance students' competitiveness in employment. When setting relevant professional practice courses, schools can cooperate with medical institutions, clinical departments, and medical staff to provide real practice environments and resources. Field trips, clinical internships, and practical training can be organized to ensure that students can personally participate in medical work and receive guidance and feedback. At the same time, schools can also formulate specific practical course plans and assessment mechanisms to ensure the effective conduct of practical courses and the evaluation of students' achievements. This can better meet the employment needs of medical college students and improve their employment competitiveness and vocational ability.

2.4. Cultivating students' professional moral qualities

Cultivating the employment ability of medical students is inseparable from the cultivation of their professional moral qualities. As medical practitioners, medical students need to have good professional ethics to protect the rights and safety of patients, and at the same time enhance their competitiveness and development potential, laying a solid foundation for future medical work. In this regard, schools should strengthen the education and training of professional ethics for medical students. By providing courses on professional ethics and ethics to guide students to understand the medical ethical norms and professional ethical guidelines, and help them construct correct values and behavioral guidelines (Tang, 2020). It can also invite doctors or medical ethics experts with rich experience to give lectures and seminars to teach students about ethical dilemmas and solutions in practical operations and inspire them to think about professional ethics. At the same time, the school can cooperate with medical organizations so that students can be directly exposed to the realities and ethical challenges of medical work in the course of practice, thus improving their understanding and knowledge of professional ethics. Schools can provide students with mentors to guide them in applying the correct code of professional ethics when facing difficulties and making decisions. In addition, schools should establish a sound assessment mechanism to evaluate students' ethical decision-making ability and awareness of

professional ethics by organizing simulated patient case discussions and professional ethics exams. At the same time, students should be given targeted feedback and guidance promptly to help them continuously improve and enhance their professional ethics. The assessment results can also be used as part of students' certificates and employment materials, providing strong support for students' employment competitiveness.

Summary

To summarize, practice orientation plays an important role in the cultivation of medical college students' employability. Through the implementation of strategies such as providing rich internship and practical training opportunities, carrying out diversified scientific research projects, setting up relevant professional practice courses, and cultivating students' professional ethical literacy, students' clinical ability, scientific research ability, and comprehensive quality can be improved, so that they can better adapt to the development needs of the medical industry. To continuously promote the progress and innovation of medical specialties, colleges and universities need to actively explore educational models and training paths that are suitable for practice orientation, to provide comprehensive support for the employability of medical college students.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

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