The Ratio of Informal Medical Education in Continuing Medical Education

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Abstract- Introduction. Continuing medical training is not supposed to meet needs of general practitioners (GP) for information. This is why a large amount of GPs apply other methods to update their scientific information.

Method. By applying the survey method, we selected 262 respondents randomly. 32 department heads of Mashhad University of Medical Science (MUMS), 110 faculty members of MUMS, and 120 GPs who all participated in a continuing medical training responded to 56 close-ended questions.

Findings. The results showed that just %6 of respondents have taken into account the continuing medical training as the only way to attain needed information. %40 of respondents count other ways more useful and plausible to get information. These ways were studied with referring to control variables like the organizational status, age and sex of respondents. Findings showed that there is not a significant difference between men and women with regard to a way they attain job-related information. Furthermore we found that the tendency toward formal and predetermined training program among younger and clinical members is higher than older and non-clinical members. Similarly, GPs showed higher tendency toward formal and predetermined training program than head department s and faculty members.

Conclusion. When the possibility of access to the Internet, texts, and journals is increased, the tendency of respondents to formal program who deliver continuing medical training is decreased.

Keywords- continuing medical training; formal predetermined training; informal training.

Remarks: The full paper may be found in www.elearningap.com