Examining OSCE in Non-Western Culture: An In-Depth Analysis from Saudi Medical Schools

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Abstract

Research Questions

1) How is the OSCE being implemented in Saudi medical schools?

The aim of this research question is to examine the OSCE's implementation in the Saudi context and explore whether the context matters for the OSCE's implementation.

2) What are the opportunities and challenges offered by adopting the OSCE in Saudi medical schools?

This seeks to explore drivers, opportunities, and challenges in implementing high-quality OSCEs in Saudi Arabia (SA).

Methodology

A qualitative, in-depth case study approach was employed to gather rich narrative and documentary data, building on my constructivist perspective. Each case study gathered assessment documents and conducted interviews with administrative staff and focus groups with OSCE designers and examiners. Codebook analysis reviewed documents, while the interviews and focus group data were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.

Findings

Four key themes were generated: institutional and assessment culture, faculty expertise and practices, OSCE quality and design, and resource and infrastructure setup. In both case studies, a central overarching theme of the entire data set is that each stage of OSCE implementation involves a series of dilemmas and compromises. In addition, several factors appear to influence how the OSCE is implemented in this context, including the source of medical school funding (public/private), accreditation status, faculty experience, and the availability of resources. Based on these findings, I developed a framework that was intended to assist the institutions in designing and maintaining an OSCE of high quality.

Questions for discussion with participants

What areas of this project would I need to consider developing further?

If I could replicate this project elsewhere, what alternative data collection and analysis methods would you recommend?

Considering the present research findings, which area warrants further investigation?

Do you believe that collaborating with other countries in the region to analyse the OSCE implementation further would be beneficial?

References (maximum three)

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