



Opinion Of 4th Year Mbbs Students On Students Union

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Abstract;

Student union is one of the least discussed topics in our society yet it has a great influence on the life of a student and learning environment of an institution. So it was imperative to assess the knowledge and understanding of the concept of student union among the students. In order to evaluate the knowledge and understanding regarding purpose of a student union among students and to formulate recommendations based on study results to improve the structure and functioning of present student union in F.M.U, a descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at F.M.U, Faisalabad from period of August to Sep-

tember 2017. The students who participated in the research belonged to 4th year of M.B.B.S program held in F.M.U, FSD. The students were included in the research after approval of the study from the institutional ethical review board. For convenience, Non-probability sampling technique was used to recruit 100 study participants. A structured questionnaire was used to collect information, which was recorded and analyzed using the Microsoft Word. Data is summarized in the form of frequencies and percentages. In this study we asked different questions from the students regarding student union, its activities, in-



interests, purpose and role that it plays for institutional welfare.

INTRODUCTION ;

A students' union, student government, free student union, student senate, students' association, guild of students, or government of student body is a student organization present in many colleges, universities, and high schools. In higher education, the students' union is often accorded its own building on the campus, dedicated to social, organizational activities, representation, and academic support of the membership

In the United States, student union often only refers to a physical building owned by the university with the purpose of providing services for stu-

dents without a governing body. In Pakistan, student union refer to a representative body, as distinct from a student activity center.

The research was conducted to know about the opinion of medical students about student union. The students belonged to 4th year of M.B.B.S program held in F.M.U, FSD. A proper questionnaire was prepared in order to do cross-sectional study. All this data was collected and summarized as frequency and percentage. Findings are stated according to the summarized data.



Literature Review.

There has been very little research on the topic of student union particularly in our region. The concept of student union is not entirely different in other regions of the world but the attitude of society and reception of the student unions by the administration of various institutions is totally different. Student unions have a proper history and are recognized as an essential element of a developed institution throughout the world. Such institutions provide facilities and a proper platform for the student union. The idea is such student organization is welcomed if kept in proper check and balance.

The history and evolution of student unions is significant to understanding the purpose and functions of

student unions, as it is a way to see why they came about and who they serve. A student union can go by many names such as college union, campus center, or student center; however they all embody the same purpose and were born from the same history. The first college union organized in the United States was at Harvard in 1832. The first building erected specifically as a union facility was at the University of Pennsylvania in 1896. This union, named Houston Hall, housed lounges, dining rooms, game rooms, offices, and other recreational and educational space. The first construction boom for union buildings began following World War II as college enrollments rapidly increased. The second construction boom occurred in the 1990s and 2000s as existing facilities



were in need of renovations or replacement.

Apart from the physical building is the idea and purpose of the union. The union is traditionally described as the “living room” of the campus and “optimally the union is a centrally-located building where members of the campus community come together, formally and informally”. According to the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) the union of today is the “organization offering a variety of programs, activities, services, and facilities that, when taken together, represent a well-considered plan for the community life of the college” (Role, ACUI 2009). It is clear from the above citations that a proper student union is not only an organization made solely for the purpose of serving the student body but it serves as an attraction for new students as well.

Some researches are conducted on this topic, to understand the effect of student union on various aspects of an institution. A study was conducted by Dennis W. Webster and William E. Sedlacek on this topic and published as “*The Differential Impact Of Student Union On Campus Subgroups*” in 1982. In his research, he discussed the effect of student union on student retention and recruitment. Another research was conducted by Ashley N. Wineki and published as “*The Makeup And Utilization Of Student Unions: A Comparative Analysis*” on 15 April, 2010. This research is focused on determining how the University of Kentucky Student Center compares to its benchmark institutions. A research was conducted by Rullman, Loren and Marc Kennedy and published as “*When It All Began: An early history of the college union move-*



ment” in 2004. The research discussed the history of student union and the changes introduced in the trend during the modern age.

A research was conducted by Mitchell, Alice A., Marie T. Sergeant, and William E. Sedlacek, which was published as “*Mapping the University Learning Environment*” in 1997. The research was based upon the idea that a student center can have a positive effect on the environment of the institution. Most of the reviews were positive thus describing the importance of student union in the development of a healthy study environment. An article written by Thomas, Liz stated the importance of student union in an institution. The article was published in “*Journal of Education Policy*” as “*Student Retention In Higher Education: The Role Of Institutional Habitus*” in 2002.



Objectives

- क्र To know the opinion of students about student union.
- क्र To understand the purpose and role of a student union.
- क्र To understand the makeup and structure of a functional student union.
- क्र To get familiar with the effects of student union on the life of a student



METHODOLOGY

Study Design:

Descriptive cross-sectional study

Study population:

4th Year M.B.B.S Class

Sampling unit:

Medical Student.

Period:

August to September 2017

Sampling technique:

Non-probability sampling

Sample size:

100

Data Collection:

The medical students of 4th year M.B.B.S in F.M.U were included after obtaining voluntary informed consent from the respondents and approval of the

study from the institutional ethical review board. The convenient non-probability sampling technique was used to recruit 100 study participants. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was used to collect information.

Data Analysis:

The data was recorded and analyzed using Microsoft word. Data is described in the form of frequencies and percentages for categorical variables and mean and standard deviation for continuous variable.

Ethical issues:

To obtain consent from the medical students prior to data collection a detailed explanation of aim and objectives of the study was given and confidentiality was



ensured. The purpose of the study was explained to medical students. Informed consent was obtained before filling questionnaire.

RESULTS

1. Does a student union exist in your institution.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	76	76%
No	24	24%

2. In your opinion, should a student union exist in institution.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	67	67%
No	33	52%



3. Are you an active member of the student union.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	43	43%
No	57	57%

4. What is the purpose of student union.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Convey student's affairs	42	42%
Cooperate with admin	18	18%
Empower student's body	27	27%
Others	13	13%

5. Do student union activities affect your studies.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	58	58%
No	42	42%



6. Do student union activities affect health services.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	29%
No	71	71%

7. If yes, what kind of effect student union has on health services.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Positive	07	24%
Negative	22	76%

8. Do teachers support student union activities.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	09	09%
No	91	91%

9. Should teachers get involved in such activities.



Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	03	03%
No	97	97%

10. Does the administration of your institution support student union.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	39	39%
No	61	61%

11. Do juniors get involved in student union activities as much as seniors.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	21	21%
No	79	79%

12. Is there any effect of politics on the student union of your institution.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	45	45%
No	55	55%



13. Should student union be involved in political activities.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	10	10%
No	90	90%

14. Are female students involved in student union activities as much as male students.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	05	05%
No	95	95%

15. What is your opinion in this regard.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Female students should be involved	26	26%
Female students should not get involved	74	74%



16. Do you think student unions serve a more personal cause than a general one.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	62	62%
No	38	38%

17. Do you think the student union of your institution has achieved its purpose.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	31	31%
No	69	69%

18. Are you satisfied with the activities of your student union.

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	30	30%
No	70	70%



DISCUSSION

Student union is the organization of students consisting of students and is supposed to work for the students' and institutional welfare. It is a complex and least understood element of our educational system. Due to very little research on the topic, the role and effects of the student union in institutional welfare is not clear. In other regions of the world, student union is considered as an important element of a healthy learning environment.

We conducted a research to assess the opinion of students about student union. The students belonged to 4th year of M.B.B.S program held in F.M.U, F.S.D. In our study, we asked the students about student union existence. 76% of them knew about the student un-

ion in their institution and 67% students said that student should exist in their institution. When they were asked whether they were active members of union or not, 57% of them answered as NO.

There were mixed opinions about the purposes of student union. 42% described union's purpose as a conveyor of student affairs, while 27% thought it to be the source of empowering student body and 13% students had their own opinion. When we asked about the union's activities and their effects on the studies 58% students categorized union activities to have effects on their studies. Most of them thought these activities as negative.

On the matter of teachers' support to the student union, most of the students i.e 91% had the opinion that



teachers don't support it. Similarly 97% thought teachers should never get involved in student union activities. According to research conducted by Ashley N. Wineky in Kentucky, the administration of foreign institutes completely support the student union but our participants had different opinion. According to 61% of them their administration is not supportive at all.

About effects of politics on student union activities 55% students thought there is no effect of politics on the activities of union but the rest thought it to be the other way. Also 96% participants thought that student union should never get involved in any political activities.

As most of the students in F.M.U, F.S.D are females, so their involvement in student union was also asked. Majority of our participants i.e

95% thought that females are not involved and most of them 74% thought that they should never get involved in student union activities. In the matter of achievements and satisfaction from the students union activities, 69% said that the union had not achieved its purpose and 70% told that they were not satisfied with the union's work. The major cause of this negative feedback was found to be the priority of the students union on its personal matters over the students' issues according to 62% of our participants' opinion.

Limitations

The study was carried out as cross sectional because of lack of time. Sample size was not more than 100 to ease the procedure. It was restricted to the medical students of 4th year in M.B.B.S program held in F.M.U. If large sample and large number of students were selected,



the result might be more accurate and acceptable.

CONCLUSION

Majority of the respondents thought that student union should exist but its present form needs some reforms. A large proportion of the participants were of opinion that their institution was not supportive to student union activities. Most of them thought student union to be influenced by politics. Majority of the participants were not satisfied with the achievements and working of the union.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the study, a student union should be properly organized and kept under surveillance so that it may function properly and serve the purpose for which it is made. Institutions should guide the students to understand the pur-

pose of a student union and provide a platform for it to function properly. A proper student union, well organized and supervised by the administration of the institute, is beneficial for both the students as well as the institution.

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