

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Medical Students' Perception of Learning Environment in New Campus of University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS): Measured by DREEM**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Background: The ultimate goal of the medical education is to produce the competent and qualified medical professionals. One essential component of medical education is to provide a good learning environment. The assessment of learning environment has been determined as a key instrument for the delivery of high quality and effective education and curriculum. Objective of this study: It is to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of learning environment in new campus of medical faculty in Kotasamarahan. Methods: It was a cross-sectional, questionnaire based study and ninety year-two medical students were recruited for the study. Dundee Ready Education Environment Measure (DREEM) questionnaire was used to collect the data. Results: The total score of DREEM was 124.05 / 200 and scores of all subdomains indicate 'More positive than negative' however there are items, 3,4,9,14,17,25,27 and 48 scored <2 which need improvements to be made to further enhance the quality of learning environment in new medical faculty of UNIMAS. Conclusion: This study can be used as a pivoting point to help produce more competent medical graduates in the future with the implementation of an efficient learning environment.

**KEYWORDS:** Dundee Ready Education Environment Measure, Student's perception, Medical professionals, Medical education, Learning environment.

**INTRODUCTION:**

"I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn." It was a popular quote of the genius, Albert Einstein. As he indicated, the educators need to provide the suitable learning condition to get the students prosper. It is realized as an educator that they have to provide a convenient learning environment so the learners can enjoy the whole process and can be comfortable with.

An excellent learning environment indicates what should be learned by stressing on the learning outcomes and what the students gain in the process of learning, while at the same time helping students to set their own learning objectives and plan their education.

Generally, this kind of approach provides opportunities for students to assess their own capability and learning skills [1]. Defining the strengths and weaknesses via students' perceptions of their learning environment is important for continuous improvement of the educational environment and curriculum.

To investigate educational climate, the DREEM (Dundee Ready Educational Environment Measure) questionnaire is a universally recognised diagnostic inventory used for assessing the quality and effectiveness of educational environment. DREEM was developed by an international Delphi panel, and had been applied to a number of undergraduate courses for health professionals worldwide [2]. It was published and introduced in the year of 1997 [3] as an implementation to assess undergraduate educational environments in medical and nursing schools in most countries. This method is a legal and validated instrument that is also used by other countries in Asia to quantify diverse aspects of teaching and learning environment [4,5].