The ABCDE of Emergency Care: A Glocalised Approach to Strengthening Emergency Care Capacity in Bangladesh

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Introduction

Emergency conditions present to hospitals across Bangladesh daily, yet Emergency Medicine remains an emerging specialty (only recognized in 2026) with very limited formal training opportunities (only 5 training posts a year). Many post-intern doctors working in specialty training programmes are responsible for the initial assessment and management of acutely unwell patients, often without formal emergency care training. In response, the ABCDE of Emergency Care course was developed through a global-local partnership to provide practical, context-appropriate emergency care education and support the long-term development of Emergency Medicine capacity within Bangladesh. The course employed a "glocalised" educational model, combining international Emergency Medicine expertise with local faculty who had extensive experience delivering emergency care within Bangladesh, ensuring training remained evidence-based while grounded in local clinical realities

Methods

A one-day emergency care course was delivered by a faculty comprising three experienced Bangladeshi emergency care clinicians and one UK-based Emergency Medicine physician.

Participants were post-intern doctors undertaking specialty training across a range of disciplines, including Internal Medicine and other hospital specialties.

The programme consisted of:

Two plenary lectures:

Principles of Emergency Medicine : the ABCDE approach

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

Four small-group practical stations:

Airway and breathing emergencies

Arrhythmias and defibrillation

ACLS scenarios

Emergency care decision-making and management within the Bangladeshi context

Pre- and post-course questionnaires assessed participant confidence and perceived competence in emergency care skills.

Facilitated discussions explored participants' experiences, educational needs and barriers to emergency care delivery

Objectives

To improve confidence in the assessment and initial management of acutely unwell patients among post-intern doctors.

To provide practical, context-relevant emergency care training applicable to Bangladeshi healthcare settings.

To facilitate knowledge exchange between local and international faculty.

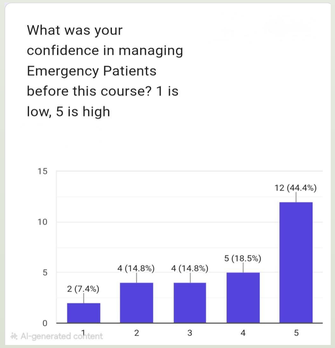
To support the long-term development of Emergency Medicine as a recognized specialty within Bangladesh.

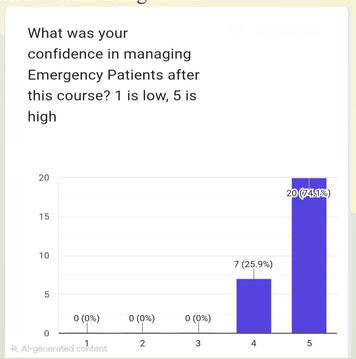
Results

Participants: 31

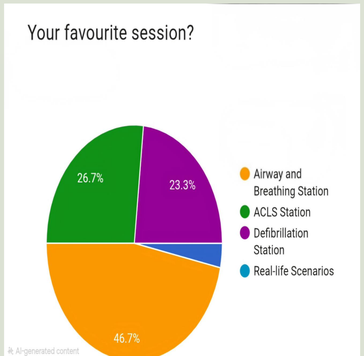
Key findings included:

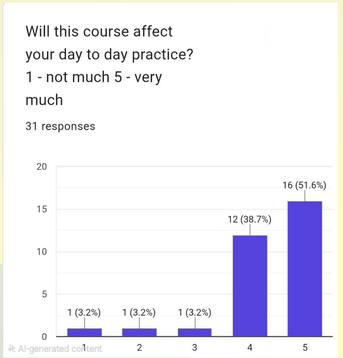
- Improvement in self-reported confidence across all emergency care domains.
- Increased confidence in recognizing and managing critically unwell patients.
- Positive feedback regarding the practical, interactive station-based format.
- Participants identified a need for ongoing emergency care training and formal Emergency Medicine development within Bangladesh.

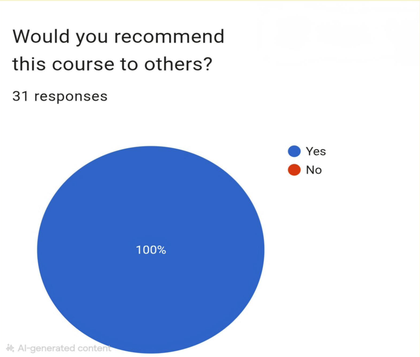












Conclusions

The ABCDE of Emergency Care course demonstrated that a short, focused educational intervention can improve clinician confidence in managing emergency presentations within Bangladesh. The combination of international expertise and local leadership enabled delivery of training that was both evidence-based and contextually relevant. Continued investment in locally led emergency care education may support the future expansion of Emergency Medicine services and workforce development across Bangladesh.

References

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