

THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE THAI VERSION OF THE COMMUNICATION SKILL ATTITUDE SCALE (CSAS)

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Abstract

Background

A few standard instruments are available to measure learning progression and evaluate attitudes of Thai medical students towards their communication skills learning.

Summary of work

The aim of the study was to develop a Thai version of the Communication Skills Attitude Scale (CSAS) with validity and reliability profiles. The result of surveys using this instrument among medical students at Phramongkutklao College of Medicine (PCM) during clinical rotation and personal characteristics associated with the attitude level were reported.

We translated the CSAS original version to Thai using forward-backward method. Content validity and internal consistency reliability indices were calculated. A sample of 223 fourth, fifth and sixth year of PCM medical students completed the survey.

Results

Content validity was good with an item-objective congruence (IOC) ranging from 0.63-1.00 after revision. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.817. Most items (22) provide an acceptable corrected item-total correlation. The median (\pm SD) of overall scores was 3.78 (\pm .39). The majority of students agreed that good communication skills are necessary; however, they want communication training lessons to be clearer and more understandable. Female students showed higher scores compared with male students. The study failed to demonstrate an association between the number of years of studying, duration of clinical experience and CSAS scores.

Discussion and Conclusion

The Thai version CSAS could be used to measure Thai medical students' attitudes towards communication skills during clinical years of medical program. This would be useful for pre-assessment, monitoring learners' progression and evaluating programs.

Take home message

To establish effective communication skills training, medical educators should pay attention to learners' attitudes.



Scan this QR code to assess the CSAS questionnaire