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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Quality of Life and associated factors among students in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Makerere University College of Health Sciences
Type	TUFH Oral Presentation <i>Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World</i>
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Content

Background: The Quality of Life of students is a vital component of learning and has strong implications for the study and practice of medicine. Medical education and training are reported to have a negative impact on the physical and mental health of students. Methods: This was a cross-sectional study with quantitative and qualitative components. The quantitative component involved 233 undergraduate and post graduate students who were attached to the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Makerere University during the study period. The World Health Organisation Quality of Life Biomedical Research and Education Facility was used to assess the students' quality of life. Results: Of the 226 students who indicated their gender, 127 were males (52.9%) and 99 were females (43.8%). The cut off for low quality of life was set at the 25th percentile of the scores in each domain as there was no normative data from the general population for comparison. Females had significantly lower quality of life scores in the social ($p=0.009$) and environment($p=0.027$) domains. The cost of accommodation was also found to be negatively associated with the psychological quality of life of students ($B=-0.23$, $p=0.014$). Conclusion: Female students in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health have significantly lower social and environment quality of life than their male counterparts. Students in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Makerere University in particular females need to be supported to improve their quality of life hence improve their learning.