

Building Pediatric Palliative Care Capacity Through a Tiered Educational Model at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Pakistan

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INTRODUCTION

- Limited access to healthcare professionals trained in pediatric palliative care (PPC) remains a major barrier to PPC integration in low- and middle-income settings.
- To address this gap, a tiered educational model was developed across undergraduate and postgraduate pediatric training program.

METHODOLOGY

- A tiered PPC educational model was integrated into existing pediatric training programs.
- Undergraduate medical students received an introductory PPC teaching session and clinical exposure with the PPC team during their pediatric rotation.
- Postgraduate training was delivered through structured rotations for pediatric subspecialty fellows and included bedside teaching, symptom management, communication skills, family meetings, psychosocial support, ethical decision-making, bereavement care, and interdisciplinary case discussions.
- Educational outcomes were assessed through post-session and post-rotation evaluations.

RESULTS

Participants (2024–2026)



220

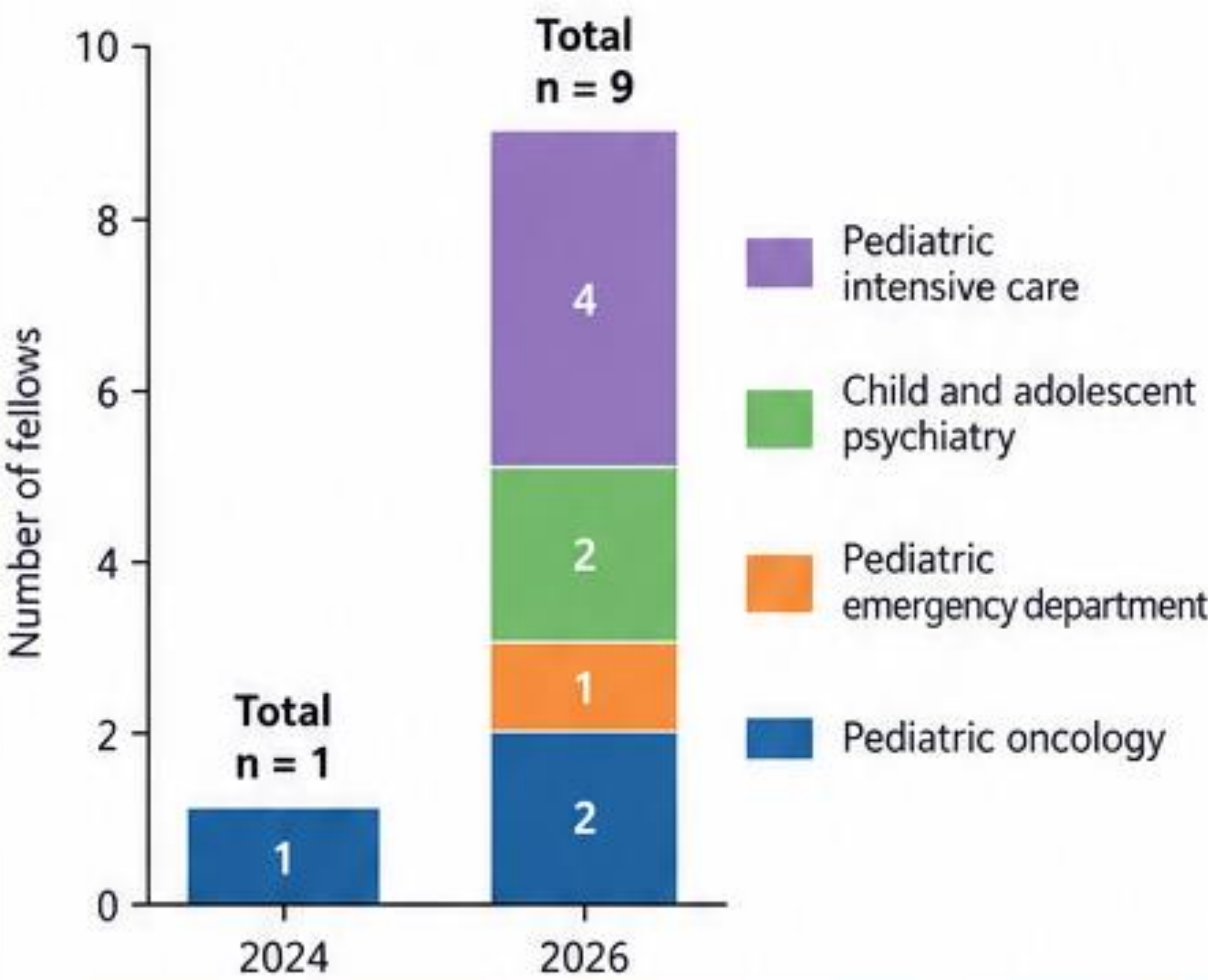
Undergraduate
medical students



10

Pediatric
subspecialty fellows

B. Expansion of fellowship training



D. Undergraduate qualitative feedback (key themes)

Underrepresented in medical education

“PPC is an important topic that is often missing from the medical curriculum.”

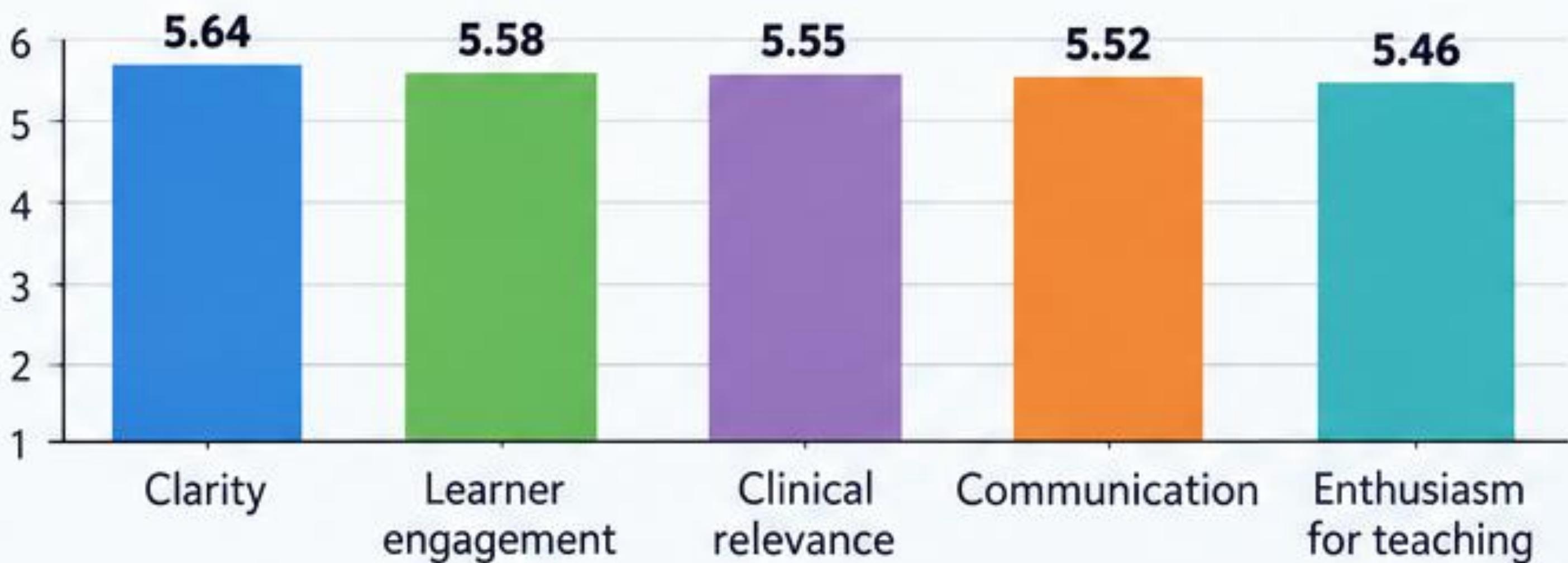
Increased appreciation of holistic care

“Helped me see the child and family beyond the disease and treatment.”

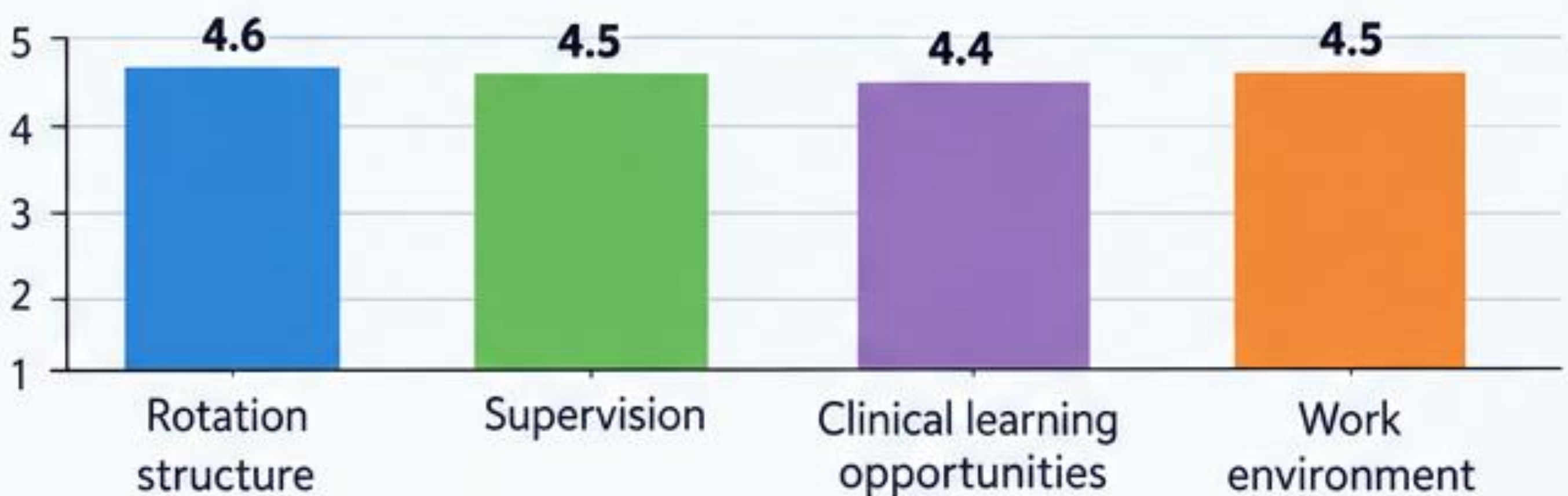
Value of early exposure

“These concepts should be introduced earlier in training to build confidence and awareness.”

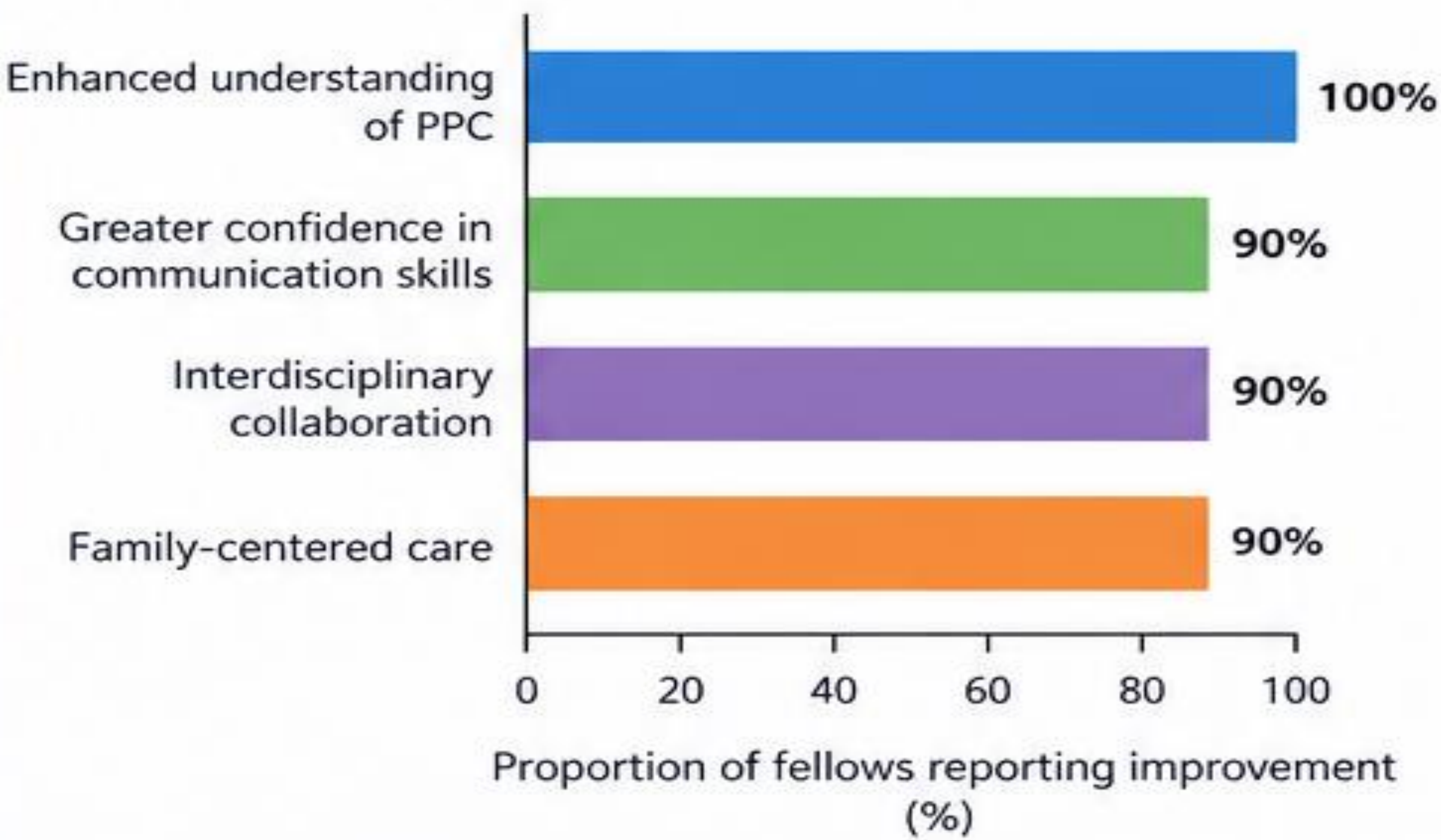
Undergraduate evaluation results (mean scores, 6-point scale)



Fellow evaluation results (most domains rated 4–5/5)



F. Fellow-reported outcomes (key themes)



CONCLUSIONS

- Integrating PPC education within existing undergraduate and postgraduate training programs is a feasible approach to building workforce capacity in resource-limited settings.
- Early exposure and experiential learning can enhance awareness, knowledge, and confidence in PPC while fostering future champions across pediatric disciplines.

REFERENCES

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- Alarjeh G, Boufkhed S, Alrjoub W, et al. Communication and information sharing with pediatric patients including refugees with advanced cancer, their caregivers, and health care professionals in Jordan: a qualitative study. *Front Oncol*. 2023;13:1118992.