

Commercial Sector

Private Medical and Nursing Schools



Introduction

In light of the growing recognition of health worker shortages in many developing countries, paying attention to the production of trained health workers is important. Often overlooked are the private medical and nursing schools, which can play an important role in contributing much-needed personnel. Teams should identify any existing private institutions, and ascertain information on what degrees they offer, a profile of their student body, how they are financed, and any coordination with public sector counterparts.

Questions

- What types of degree programs do you offer?
- What is the length of each of these programs?
- Do your degree programs include training in [health area of interest, e.g., family planning]?
- Are these courses required? If not, what percentage of students take these courses?
- What services are graduates allowed to provide in [health area of interest]?
- How many students are currently enrolled? How many men/women in each degree program?
- What financial assistance is available to your students?
- Does your institution have excess capacity to serve more students?
- What is your graduation rate? Does the rate vary between women and men?
- What is your attrition rate? Does the rate vary between women and men?
- Where do your students work after they graduate? Probe for any differences between male graduates and female graduates
- Are dropouts a problem? What issues/factors drive dropping out? Do any of these issues more specifically affect women? Or men?
- How many professors/instructors teach within your program? Approximately how many women and men among them? Are certain degree programs taught predominantly by men? Or by women?
- How do you partner with the government – Ministry of Health, Finance, etc.?