

**Assessment of the Educational Environment of a Dental School
at The Libyan International Medical University**

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Introduction: Educational environment refers to a group of factors that have an impact on students' performance. Measuring these factors help redesign curricula, instructional methods and teacher and student behavior. Dundee Ready Educational Environment Measure with 50 items (DREEM-50) is a widely used questionnaire for measuring the educational environment. An abridged version of DREEM was recently postulated with 12 items (DREEM-12). This study aims at measuring the educational environment as perceived by new third year Dental School students of the Libyan International Medical University using DREEM-50 and also test the correlation between DREEM-50 scores and those of DREEM-12.

Methods: DREEM questionnaire was administered online and anonymously through Goggle Forms to all third year dental students at the dental School of the Libyan International Medical University, Benghazi, Libya. Data obtained using this questionnaire was used to assess the correlation between DREEM and its abridged version.

Results: All 59 students participated in the study. 58 responses were eligible for analysis. Mean score for DREEM-50 and its abridged version were 127.5 ± 24.5 and 32.9 ± 7 respectively. The correlation between the scores of the two versions was highly significant ($r = 0.935$, $P = 0.000$). 83% of items of DREEM-50 have scores ranging from 2-3. Gender didn't affect any of the items, domain or total scores.

Conclusions Both versions reached to the same conclusion i.e. the educational environment in the studied setting is perceived by students more positively than negatively and that the correlation between the two questionnaires is highly significant. However, most of the items need to be improved.

Key Words: Medical Education, Dental Education, DREEM, Educational Environment, Libya.