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Expectations in the Supervision of the PhD thesis among Medical students from the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University „St. Kl. Ohridski”

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Introduction

- The supervision of PhD candidates is a process of interaction and communication between the supervisor and the candidate;
- The supervisor is not only a mentor and advisor but also facilitates the integration of the candidate into the research team.
- Sometimes the expectations of the candidate exceed the capacity and the commitment of the supervisor

Introduction (2)

- In order to establish a better relationship between both sites, it is important to create a formal framework of rights and obligations at the very beginning.

Aim

- The aim of the present study is to identify the expectations in the PhD thesis supervision from the point of view of the undergraduate medical students.

Subjects and Methods

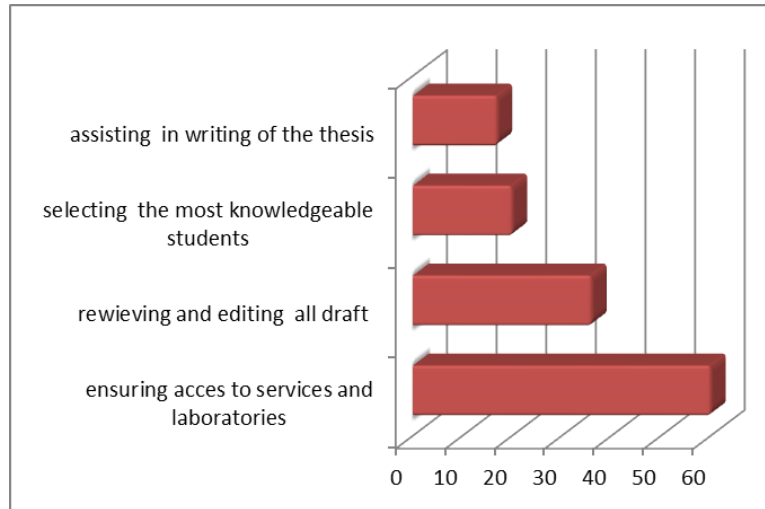
- A cross-sectional study was conducted using an anonymous questionnaire in January 2019.
- The participants were 30 undergraduate medical students, 4th scholar year (16 male and 14 female, mean age of 22.5 years), selected according to their exam results;
- The students were recruited immediately after the exam. The inclusion criteria were:
 - achieved "excellent" and "very good" examination marks
 - expressed interest in the development of PhD thesis after graduation.
- Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics with SPSS 17.

Questionnaire and evaluation

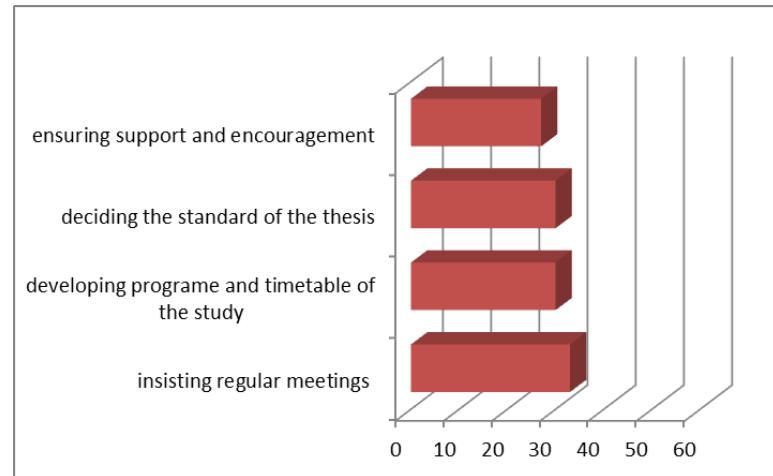
- The questionnaire contains 12 questions that define different aspects of the PhD student-supervisor interrelations.
- The questions are related to the choice of a research topic, methodology and theoretical framework, criteria for selecting the PhD candidate, regularity in supervision and professional and emotional support;
- The evaluation is conducted by a 5-level numerical rating scale:
 - Rating 1 – only the supervisor is responsible
 - Rating 2 - mainly the supervisor is responsible
 - Rating 3 – the supervisor and the student should equally be involved
 - Rating 4 – the student is primarily responsible
 - Rating 5 – only the student is responsible

Expectations in Supervision

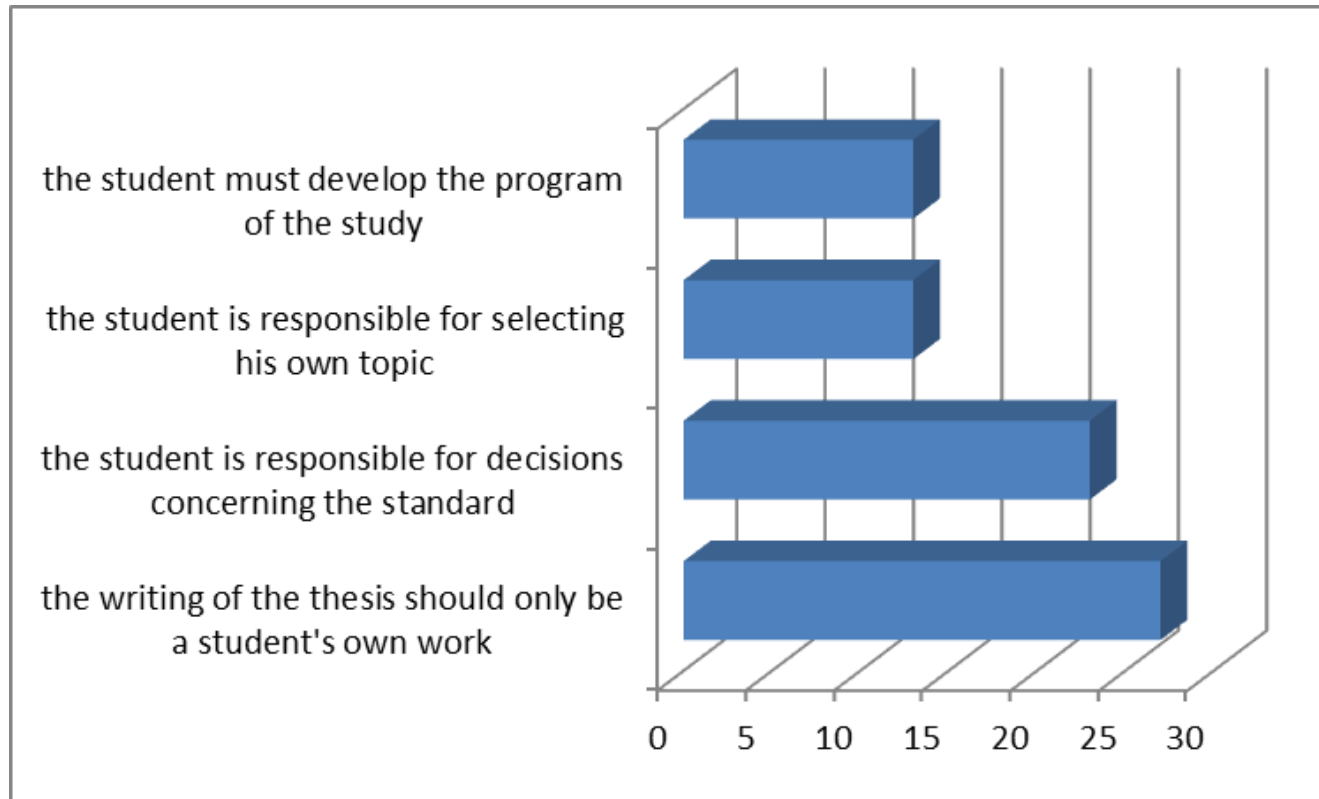
The supervisor is the only one responsible - score 1 in per cents



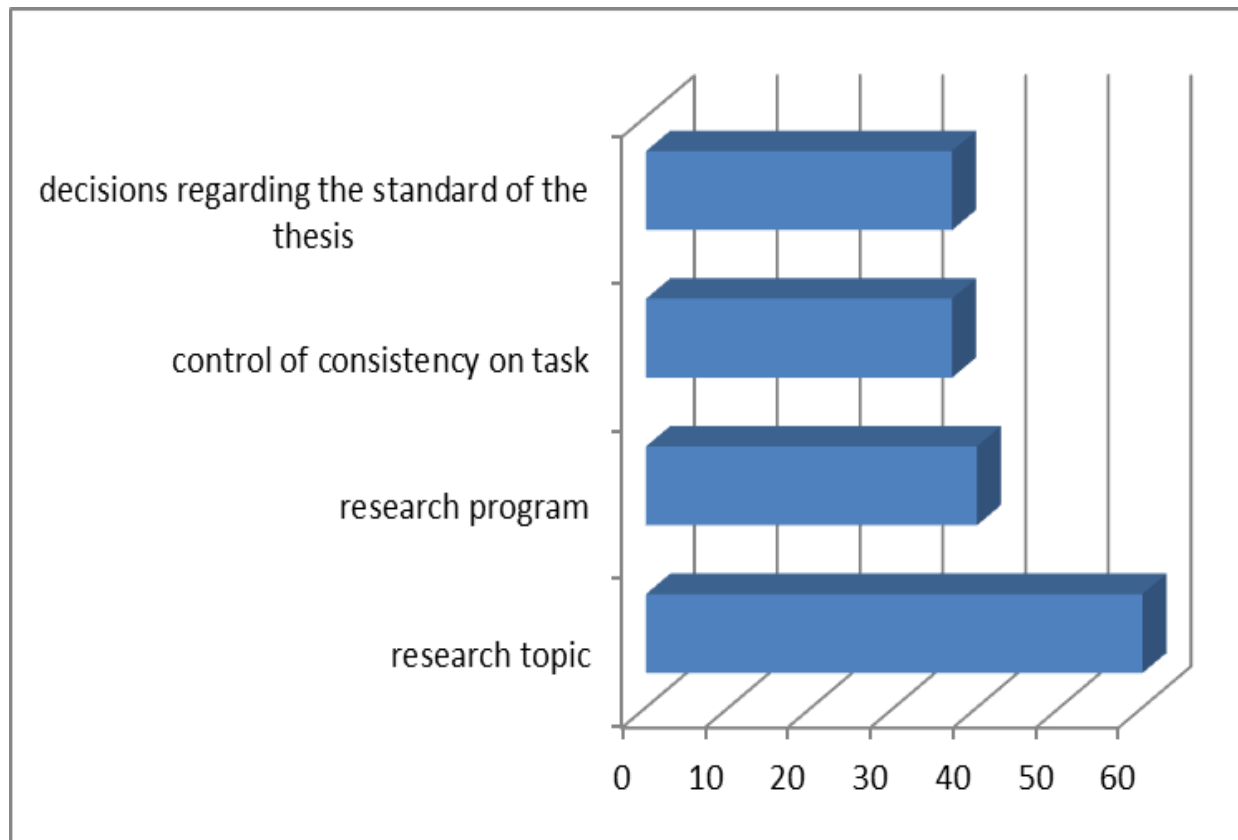
The supervisor is the main responsible person - score 2 in per cents



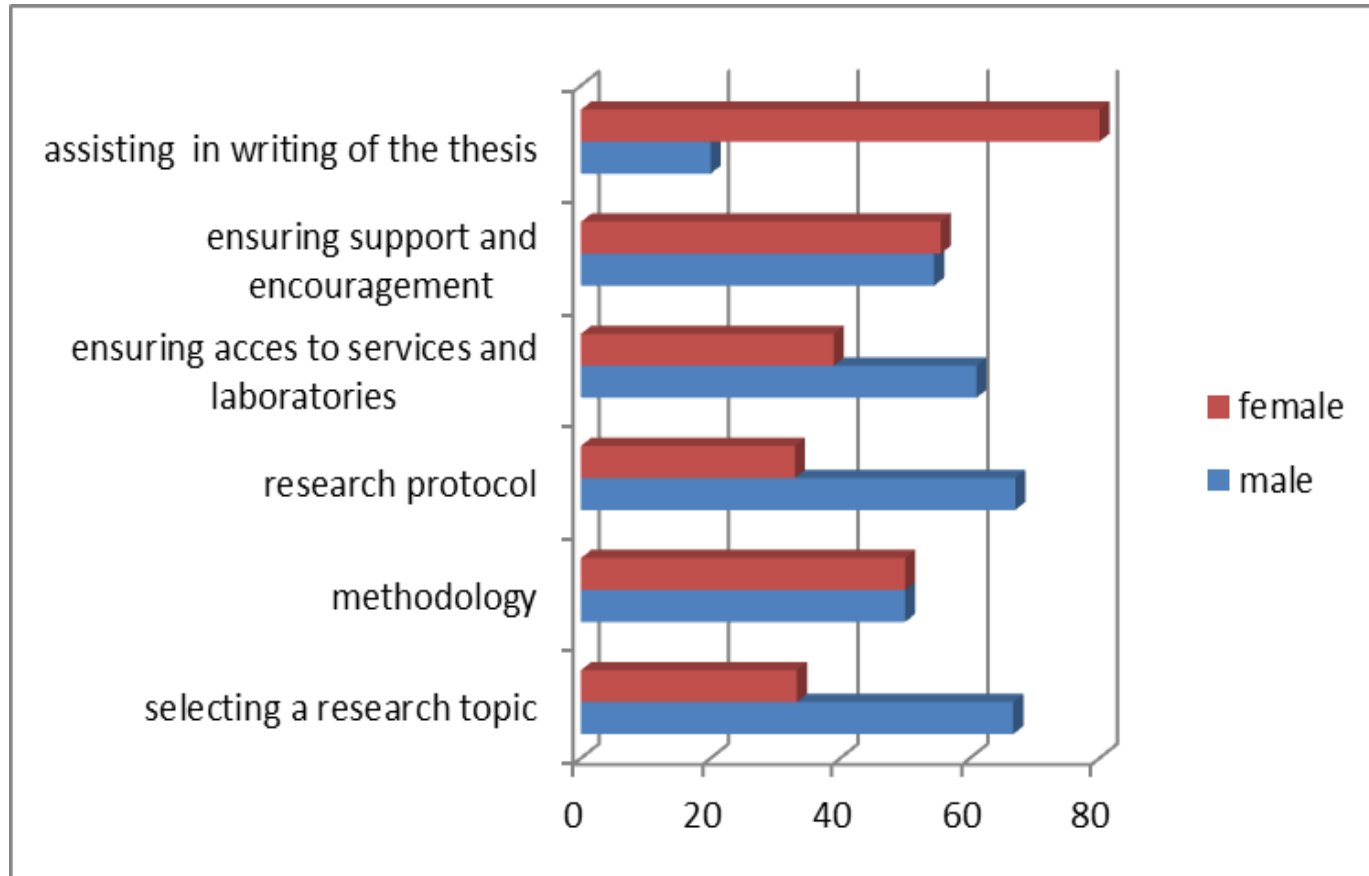
The student is definitely responsible - score 5 in per cent



The supervisor and the student are equally responsible - score 3 in per cent



The supervisor is the only one responsible - score 1 in per cents (male and female)



Conclusions

- The results of this pilot study suggested that undergraduate medical students have certain ideas about the roles of the supervisor and the Ph.D. candidate;
- They do not express too high expectations about the supervision and the support during the PhD process;
- Females will be more independent in the choice of the research topic, the research protocol and the laboratory facilities, but are with greater expectations to be supported in the drafting of the thesis.

Conclusions (2)

- Defining the roles and the responsibilities in developing a dissertation, needs a proper communication with the PhD candidate from the very beginning of the research process;
- A communication would improve the efficiency of the process and the result of the PhD thesis.



THANK YOU

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