

# Necessity of initiation of a Master Degree Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease care in Sri Lanka

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**Background:** A needs analysis was conducted to identify the necessary of initiation of a master degree program in NDD care specific to elderly at the University of Ruhuna as the main hub of higher education in the Southern Sri Lanka.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional survey was conducted involving 150 healthcare professionals, educators, students and lay people. A self-administered questionnaire was administered.

**Results:** Notably, the majority (65.8%) were unaware of any master's level education program on NDD care. They believe that establishing professionals with specific training would enhance the quality of patient care (77.4%, n=120). Furthermore, 82.0% (n=127) strongly agree or agree with the importance of upgrading NDD related professions and research and development in Sri Lanka. Moreover, a 30.3% agreed, and 49.0% strongly agreed on the importance of exploring job market both locally and internationally with a master's degree. Further, significance was mentioned including an increased elderly population (94.2%), potential economic development and foreign income generation (66.5%), and improvements in health indicators within Sri Lanka (73.5%).

**Conclusions:** The need analysis strongly supports for initiating a master degree program in NDD care at University of Ruhuna which was identified.