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MEDICAL STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON MEDICAL ETHICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES: A CROSS – SECTIONAL STUDY

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Ethics Medics On Medical Ethics

Introduction

According to WHO, Medical Ethics deals with the ethical principles that govern professional conduct in medicine. This project conducted on Medical Students' Knowledge and Attitude on Medical Ethics at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine provided an insight on students' understanding and perception of the four Medical Pillars (Patient Autonomy, Beneficence, Non-Maleficence and Justice). Despite its numerous advantages, there is minimal literature regarding the importance of medical ethics research being performed within the Caribbean region and the advantages it entails with regards to national and regional health-care enhancement.

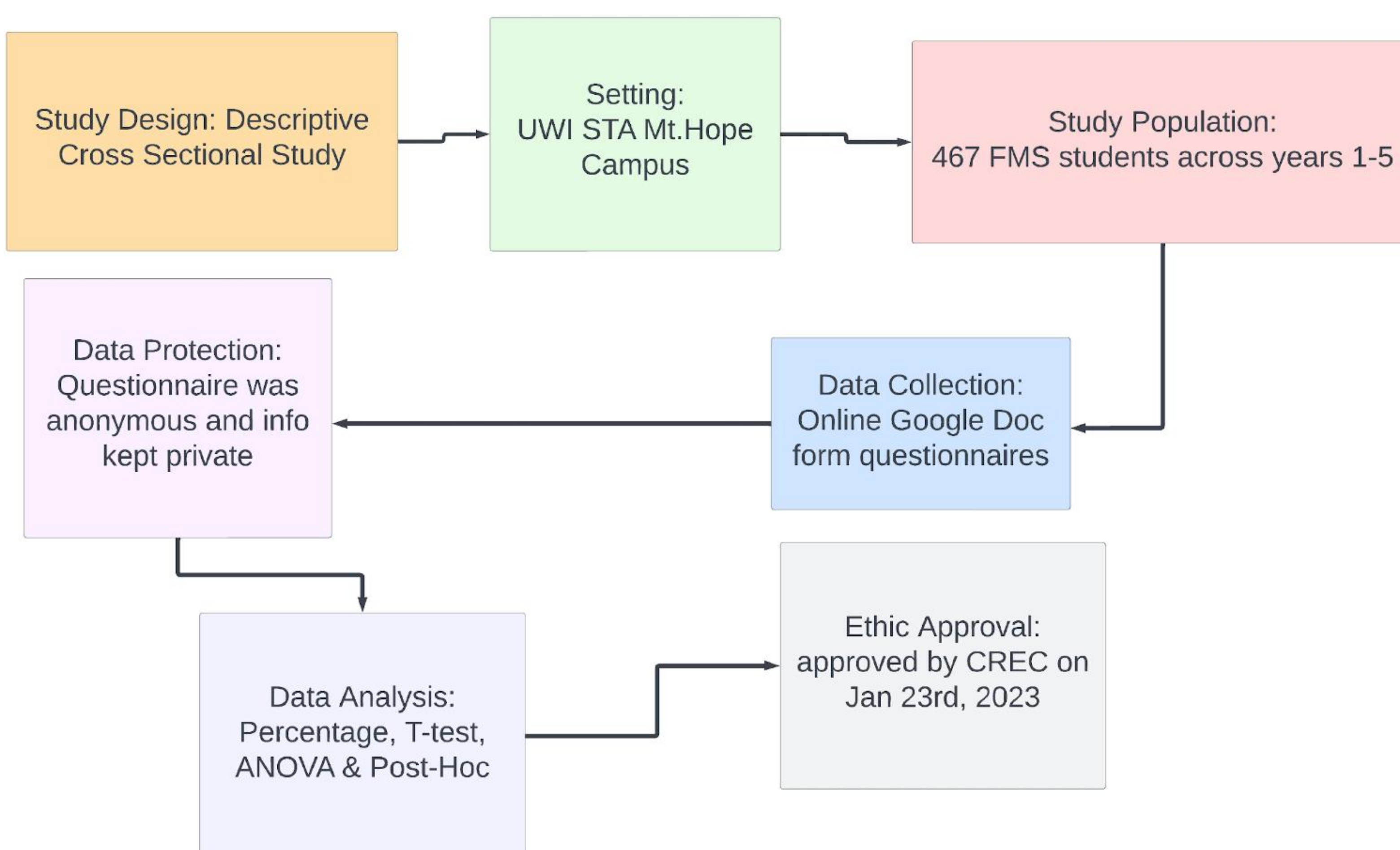
Therefore, this study is not only intended to lay the foundation for further research, but also to create awareness on the effectiveness of this discipline and thus propose recommendations for its improvement in hopes that we can further improve healthcare delivery to our fellowmen.

Objectives

The goals of this research project are:

- 1.To study the Knowledge of Medical Ethics among students.
2. To analyze any differences between male and female perceptions on medical ethics among the students.
3. To examine the difference between perspectives on medical ethics among the medical students with respect to their academic years.
4. To investigate the difference between perspectives on medical ethics among the medical students with respect to their ages.

Methodology



Results

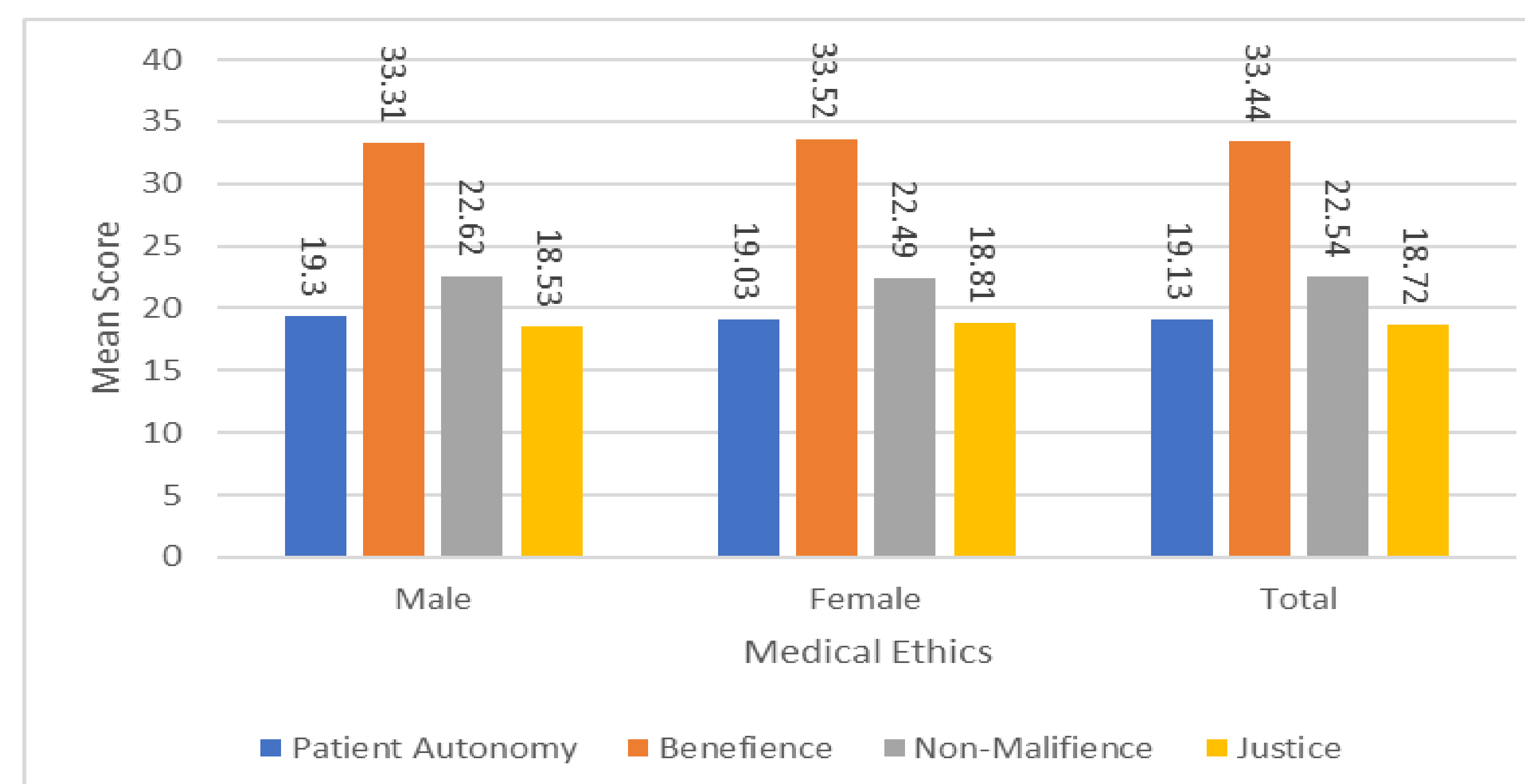


Figure 1: Shows the Comparative mean score for students' perception on medical ethics according to Genders.

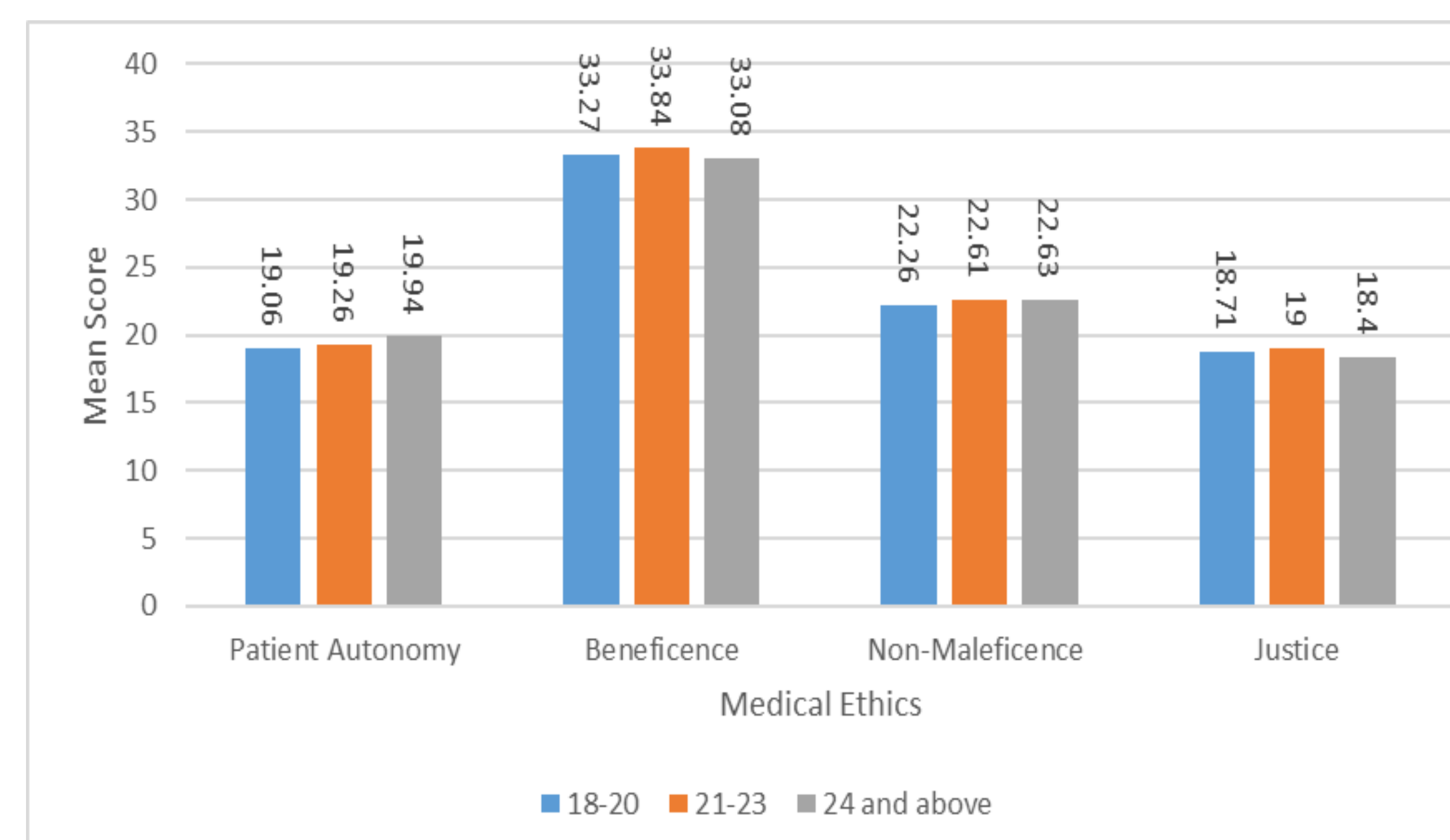


Figure 2: Shows the Comparative Mean Score for students' perception on medical ethics according to Age.

Discussion

For gender, more female participated (62.1%) than male (37.9%), while 0.7% selected 'other'. This was a result of more Female Admission over the last 5 years into the UWI STA MBBS program. 93% of Students have Knowledge on Medical Ethics, which would help them in their medical profession. In relation to age and year of study, most participants were 21 -23 years of age (42.9%), notably from Years 1-2 whose response rates were 24.3% and 30.9% respectively. This occurred due to no age restriction into admission of the MBBS program.

Third to fifth year had lower response rate since they are in hospital setting which were expected due to their workload. From results, the main findings of this study indicated no significant difference between Medical students Age and Gender with respect to their Knowledge and Attitude on Medical Ethics however there was Significant difference seen in Year of Study.

The difference was a result of Years 1 to 3 of the MBBS program have less practice in clinical settings, so their exposure to knowledge is constrained. Since the medical ethics course is only offered in the second year of study, Year 1 received the least desirable response while Year 4 and 5 having the highest.

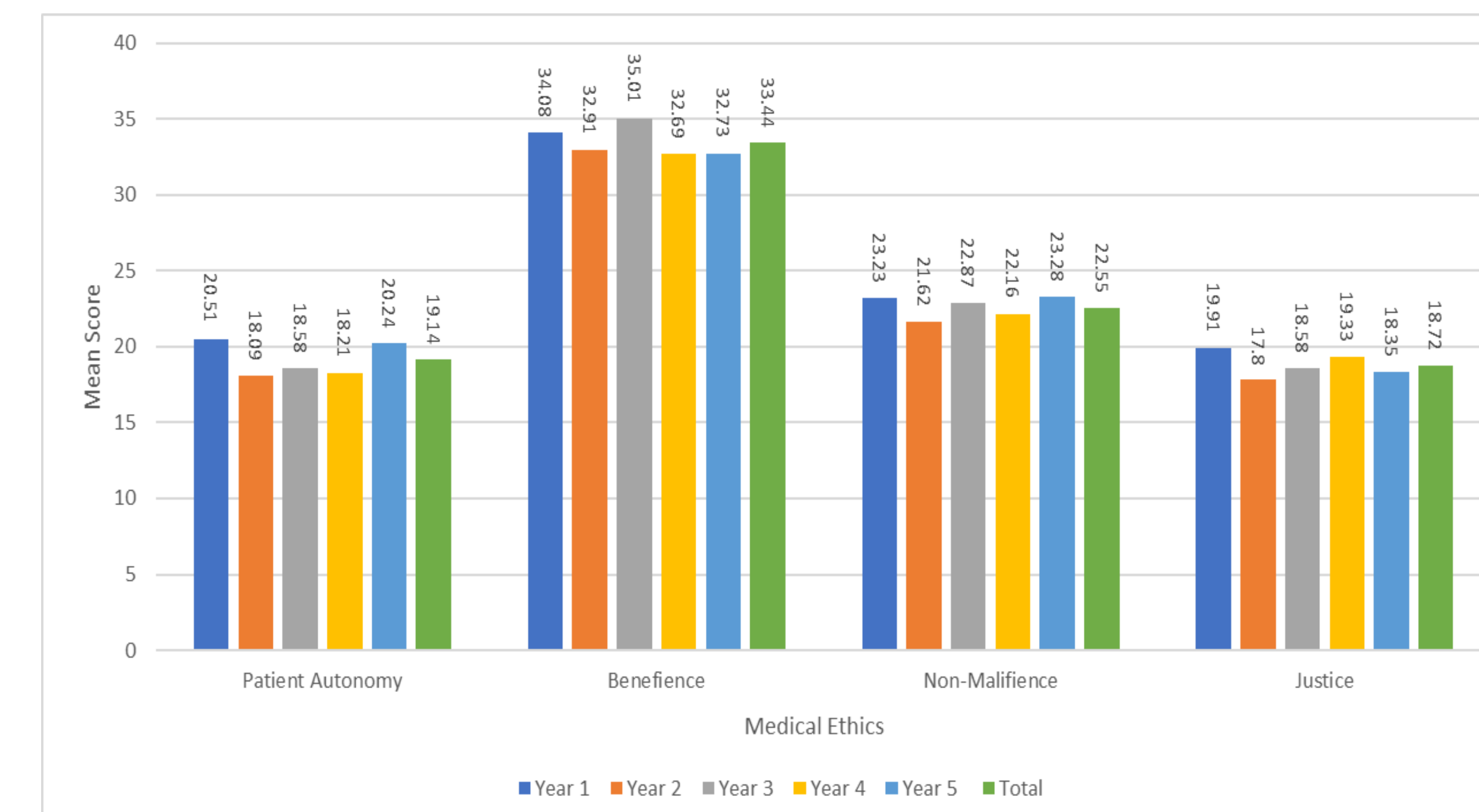


Figure 3: Shows the Comparative mean score for student perception on medical ethics according to Year of Study.

Conclusion

1. It can be concluded that UWI STA MBBS students showed an overall positive Knowledge towards their understanding and relevance of medical ethics.
2. From the surveys, there were no significant differences between students' age and gender with regards to their understanding and attitude towards medical ethics (457 responses gathered).
- 3.As the year of study progress, also did knowledge and attitude of the medical pillars with the clinical years (Year 4 & 5); having the most accurate responses.
4. Year 1 had the least acceptable responses since the Medical Ethics course is offered during Year 2 FMS MBBS program.

References

WHO Ethics and Medicine:
<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/53516/WH-1989-Apr-p2-6-eng.pdf>

Acknowledgments

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