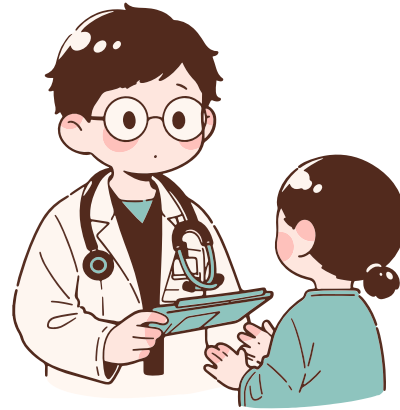


Beyond Language Barriers: Student Reflections on Medical Interviewing in English



Dr. Sabina Mahmood and Prof. Hideo Ino

Center for Education in Medicine and Health Sciences

Okayama University

The 29th JASMEE Academic Meeting

July 11-12, 2026

Self Introduction



Dr. Sabina Mahmood, MD, Ph.D.(医学博士)

Associate Professor (准教授)

IB Program Director@ Okayama University (IB推進室 室長)

Okayama University Medical School Alumni

Courses I teach in English:

- 1. Medical Interviewing in English**
- 2. Behavioral Science: Cultural Communities**
- 3. Introduction to Emotional Intelligence**
- 4. Self Exploration through Creativity**
- 5. Role of Identity in Intercultural Communication**
- 6. Introduction to the 8 Dimensions of Wellness**
- 7. Introduction to Education Field Deployment**

Additional Duties:

- 1. English SP training**
- 2. USMLE Support**
- 3. IB Student counseling**
- 4. IB Research**
- 5. Higher Education Reform concerning IB Education**

**The 29th. JASMEE
Academic Meeting
COI Disclosure**

Presenter: Sabina Mahmood

There is no COI with anyone regarding this research presentation!

Presentation will include-



**Why we
introduced
the course.**



**What
students
experienced.**



**What
they
learned.**



**Why this
matters for
the future of
medicine.**



Building Skills. Understanding People. Healing the World.



Interactive lecture



Learn the principles and techniques of effective medical interviewing.



Doctor-patient role-play



Practice real-life conversations through simulated patient interactions.



English communication



Strengthen English skills for clear, accurate, and empathetic communication.



Cultural awareness



Understand different cultural perspectives to provide patient-centered care.



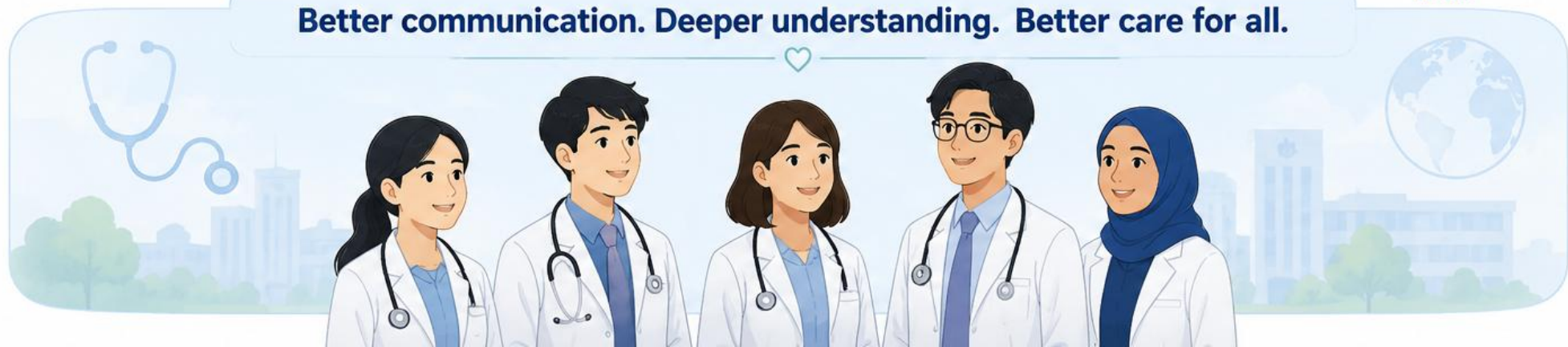
Preparing future physicians



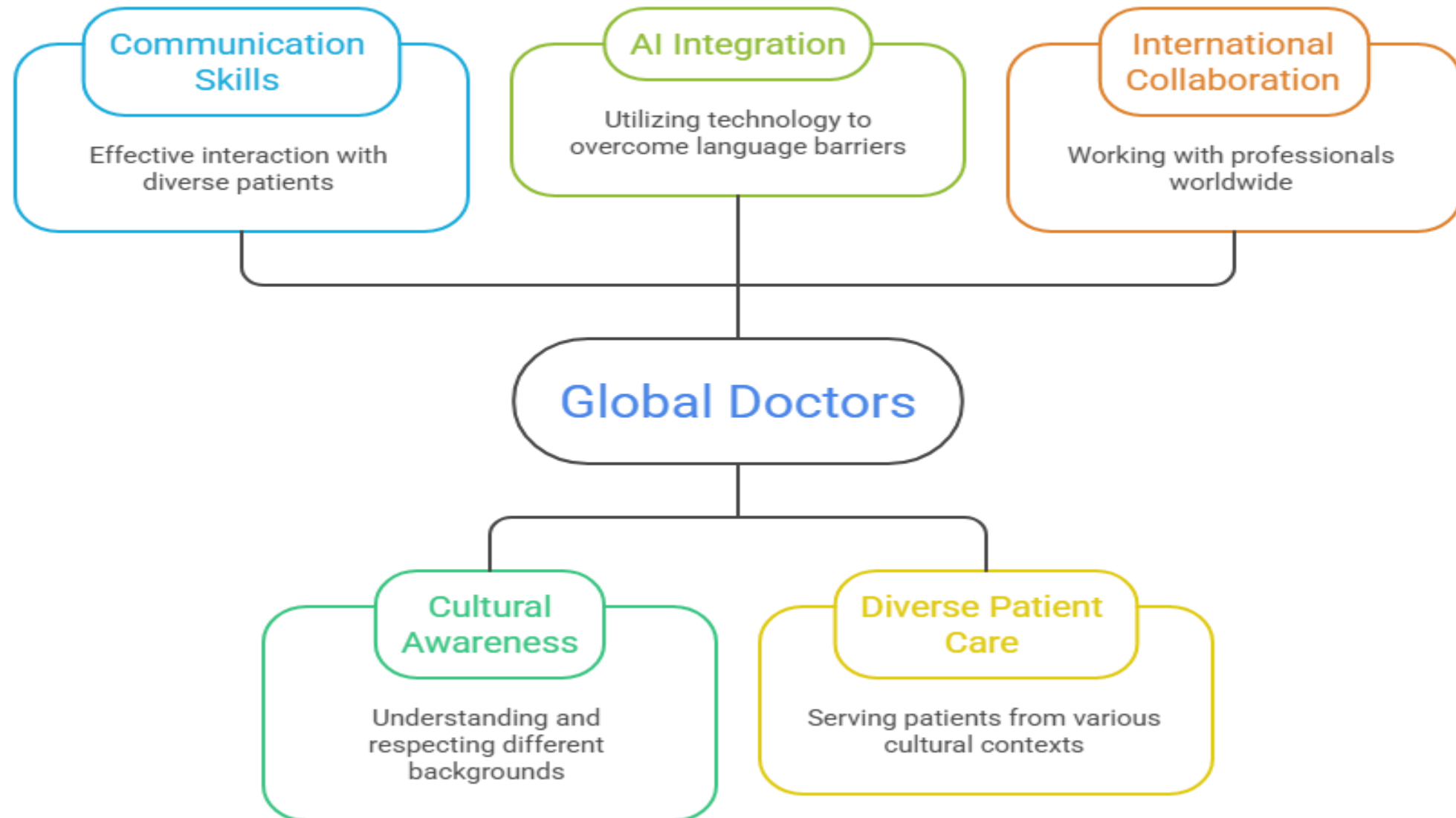
Develop the confidence, compassion, and global mindset needed to serve diverse communities.



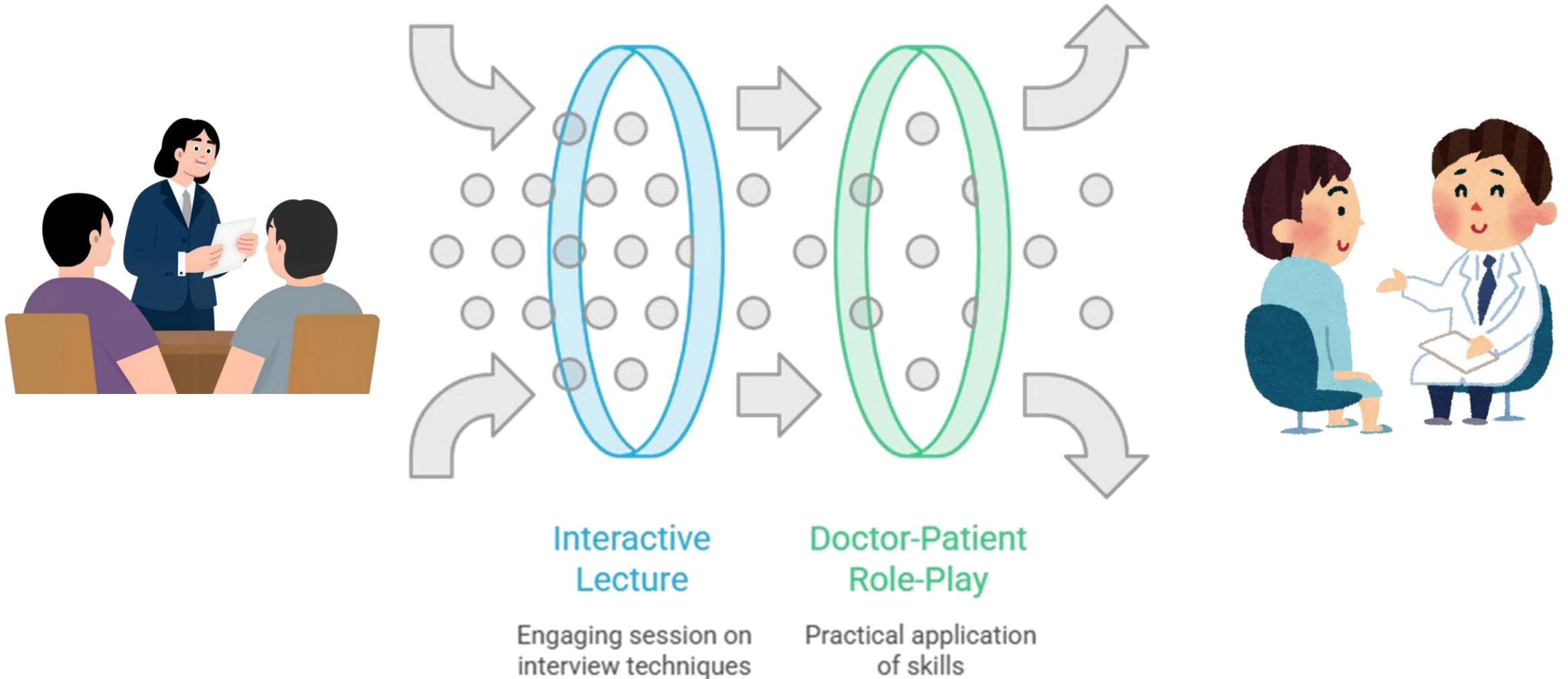
Better communication. Deeper understanding. Better care for all.



Essential Skills for Global Doctors



Medical Interviewing Training Process



Student Experiences



Positive Experience

61.1% of students reported a positive experience.



Mixed Concerns

24.1% shared mixed concerns about language barriers.

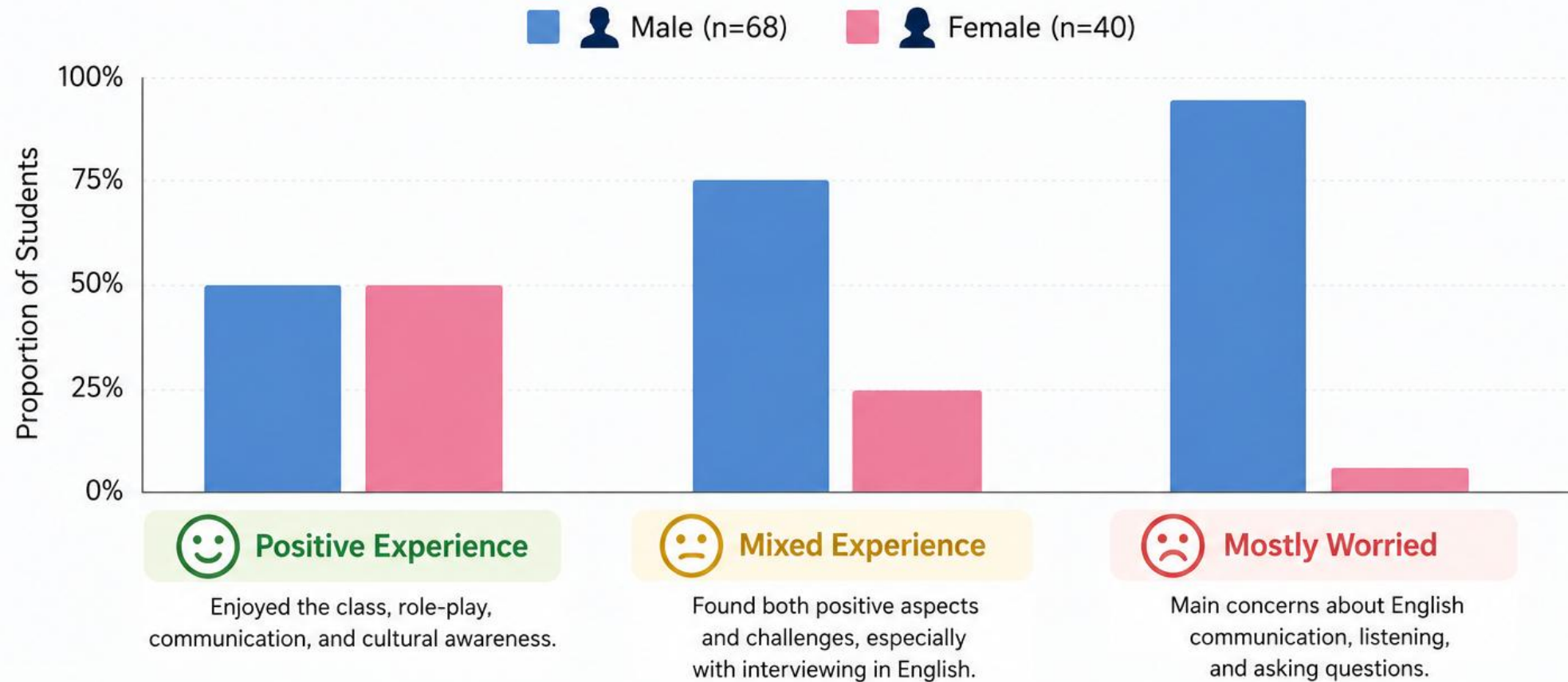


Mostly Concerned

14.8% were mostly concerned about language barriers.

Gender Differences in Student Experiences

Fourth-Year Medical Students' Feedback on "Medical Interviewing in English"



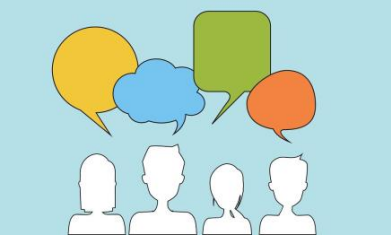


Female students appeared more likely to report positive experiences.



Male students more frequently expressed language-related concerns.





Lesson Learnings

Increased Confidence

Gained confidence even with taboo questions.

Advance Thinking

Need to think in advance when talking to foreigners.

English Opportunity

Great opportunity to practice medical interviews in English.

Comfortable Lesson

Today's lesson was really comfortable.

Cultural Understanding

Learned the importance of cultural understanding.

Controversial Questions

Learned how to ask controversial yet important questions.

Importance of Asking

Learned that asking "how" is important.

Gender Sensitivity

Learned that gender issues are difficult.

Doctor Sabina

Wish all doctors could learn from Dr. Sabina.

English Practice

Lucky to use English, need to practice more.

Behavior Over Skills

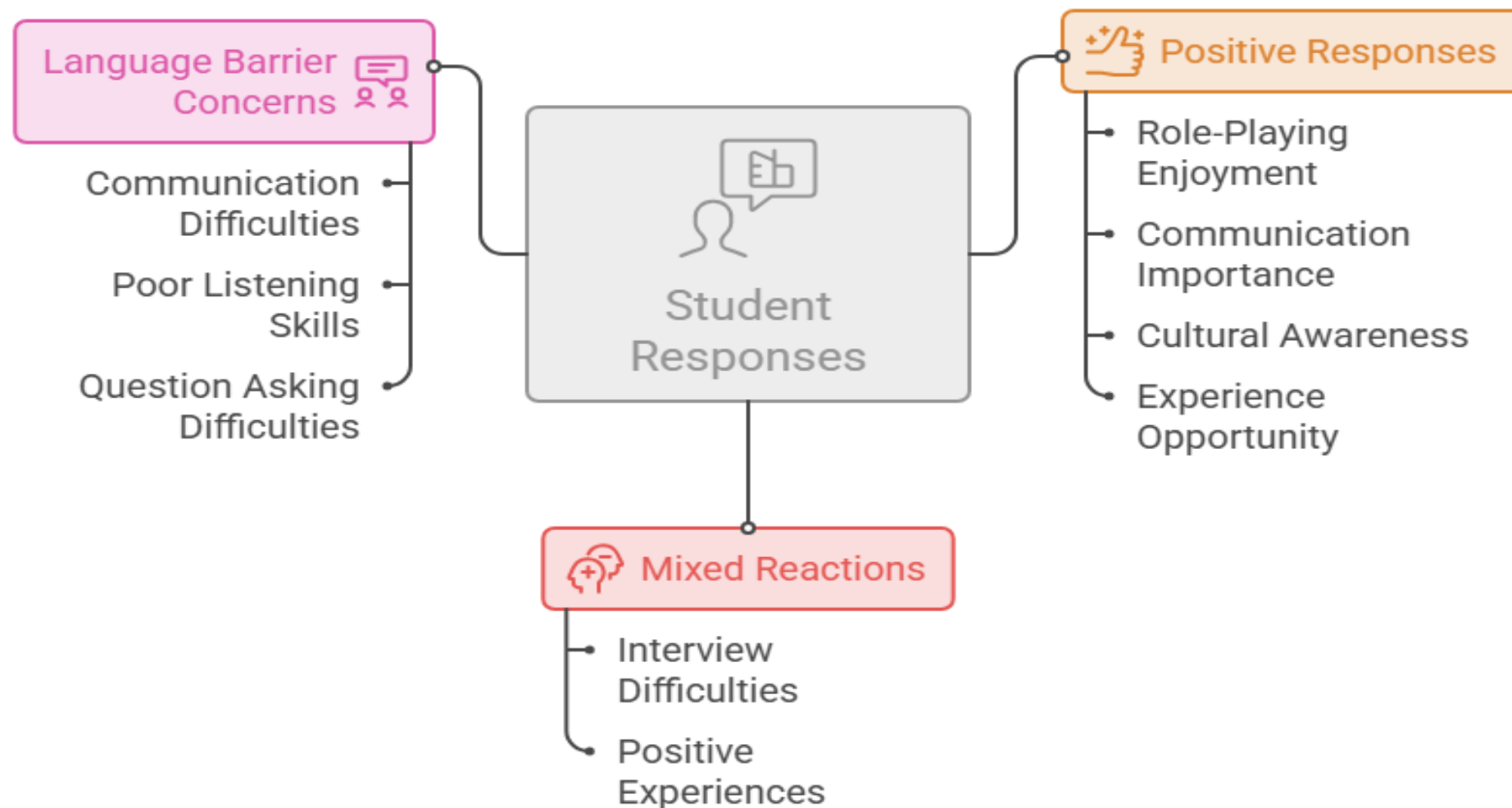
Behavior is more important than English skills.

Taboo Questions

Learned about taboo questions and patient-friendliness.



Student Responses to English Language Learning Experience





English Communication Difficulties

Expressing Opinions

It was very difficult to express my opinion in English.

First Imagination

Today is the first time I have imagined how to communicate with a non-English speaker.

Speaking Only English

To speak only English is difficult.

Nervousness

When I have to speak in English, I get so nervous that I forget what to ask patients.

Listening Difficulty

Listening is difficult.

Explaining to Foreigners

Explaining to foreign people in English is very difficult.

General English Communication

Communication in English is very difficult.

Overall Communication

Communication with others is too difficult for me.

Vocabulary Shortage

I don't have enough vocabulary about medicine.

Need for Effort

I need more effort to speak English.

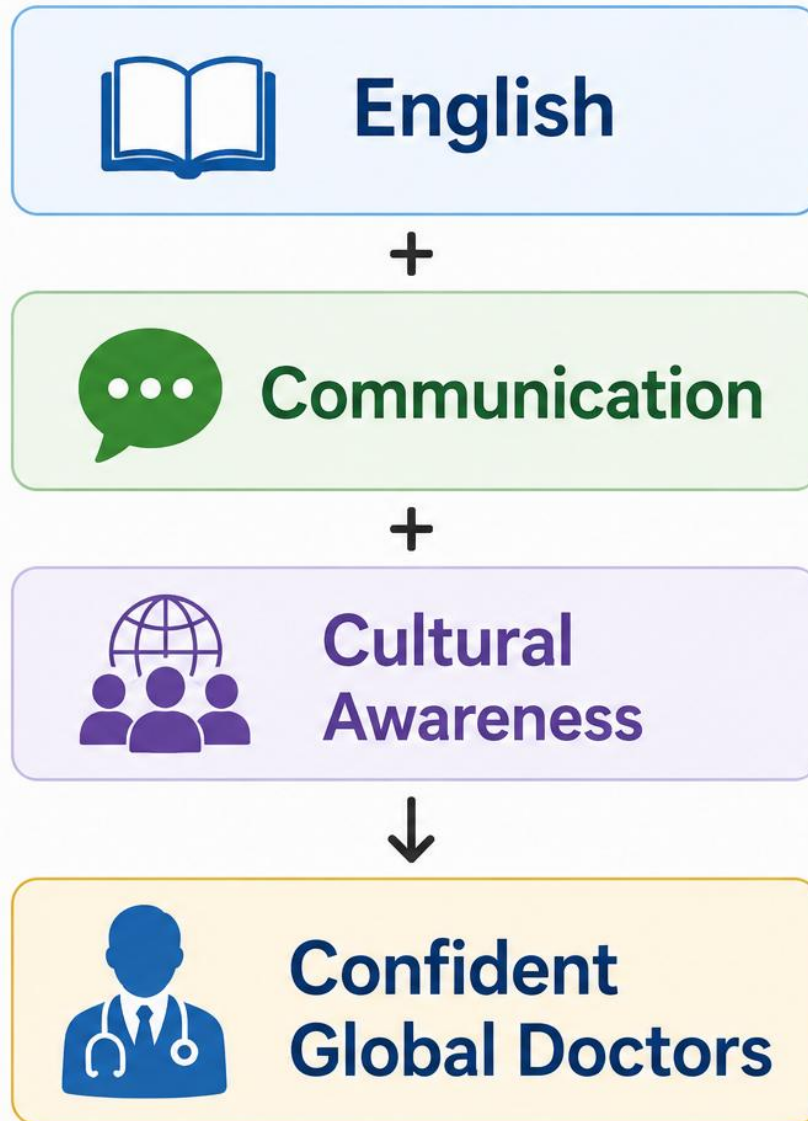
Information Obtaining

Difficult for me to obtain information when speaking and listening in English.

Medical Words

It's difficult to speak English. I can't say medical words, especially.

Take Home Message



Even as AI increasingly reduces language barriers, **empathy**, **communication**, and **cultural understanding** remain essential competencies for future physicians.



Thank you



for your attention.

Learning together. Inspiring the future.



SHAPE THE FUTURE

INQUIRY

COLLABORATION

DIVERSITY

EXCELLENCE

**For further inquiries
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