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Role-play 3 - Empathy

Empathy is an emotional experience between an observer and a subject in which the observer, based on visual and auditory cues, identifies and transiently experiences the subject's emotional state. During the initial phase of the process, the observer must not only identify but also understand the basis of the subject's feelings. Patients are likely to tell more about their symptoms and psychosocial concerns to an empathic physician. This enhanced medical and psychosocial information sharing leads to a more accurate diagnosis. Additionally, the empathic physician is able to identify with the patient and has a better understanding of individual patient's needs.

Student 1 (Doctor):

A 16-year-old afghan boy comes to you after he fell down and broke his arm, while examining his body you noticed some marks on his body that most likely are a result of a physical abuse.

Ask the Patient about how he received the injuries and try to get as much information from him as possible.

Student 2 (Patient):

You are a 16 years old afghan boy who has been abused at home by his Father.

Avoid answering the doctor's answers directly and answer them only if the doctor asked the right questions and make you feel safe and secure.

Students 3-5:

- 1) How well did the doctor (Student 1) apply the soft skill in the Role-play?
- 2) Give suggestions on how he can improve himself.
- 3) Discuss if cultural issues have an impact on the communication.



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