



DESTROYING STATISTICS PHOBIA AMONGST MRES POSTGRADUATES

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DOES STATISTICS SCARE YOU TOO?

THE PROBLEM

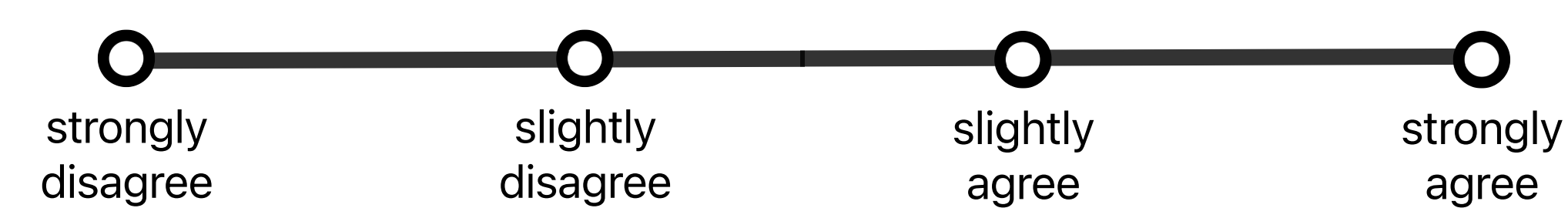
STATISTICS PHOBIA —the fear of statistics—is common amongst students in research. Incorrect biostatistical test selection and application falsifies analysis, creating unreliable evidence-based medicine.

The MRes program's biostatistics assignment combats this problem by asking students to criticise statistics used in articles in a field of their choice through a 2000-word written assignment.

METHODOLOGY

A mixed methods approach to collect quantitative and qualitative data

1 Likert Scale
n = 18



2 One-on-One Interviews
n = 8

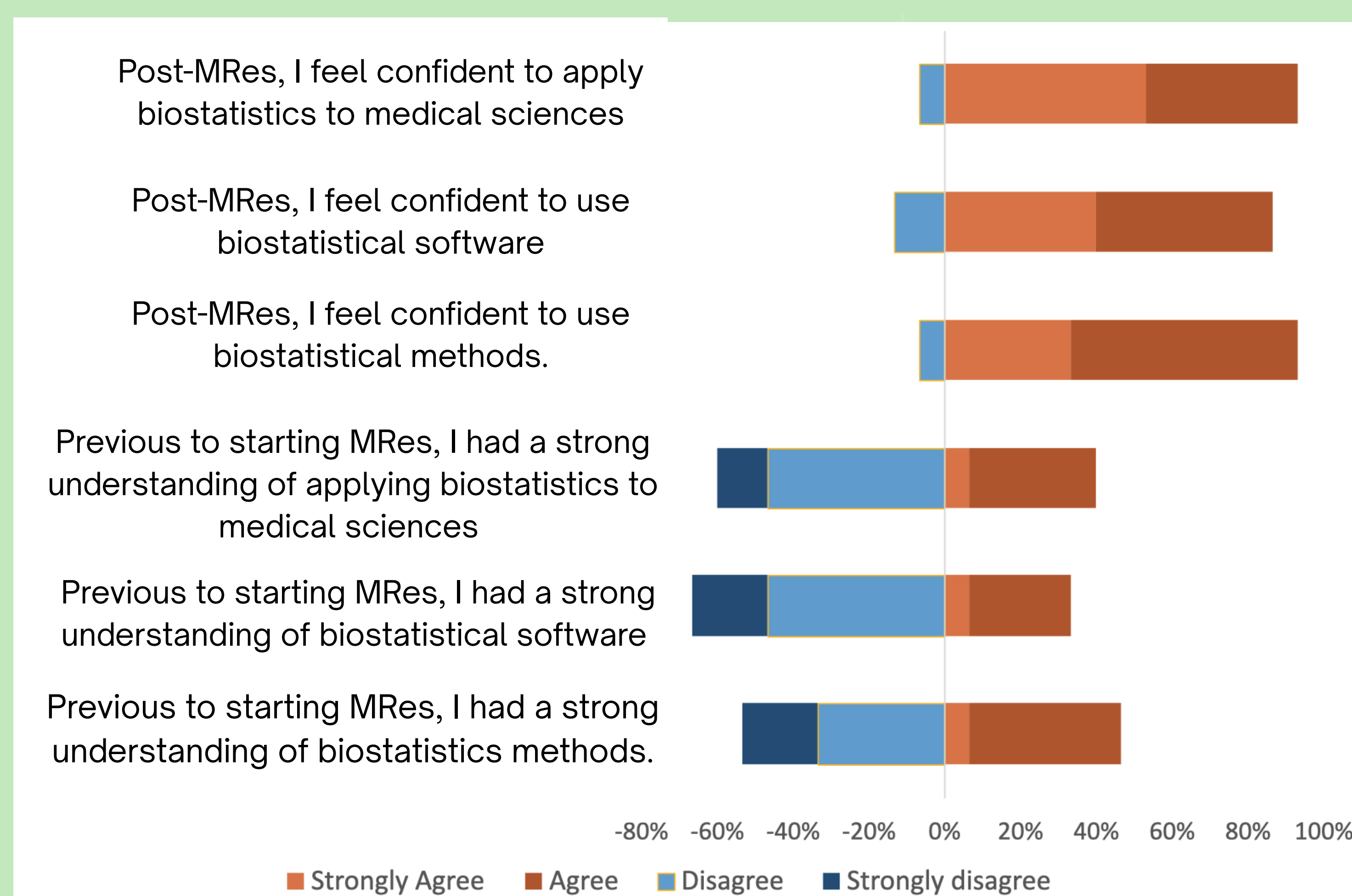


Does the MRes biostatistics assignment improve KNOWLEDGE & APPLICATION OF BIOSTATISTICAL METHODS in current professional settings of post-graduates?

RESULTS

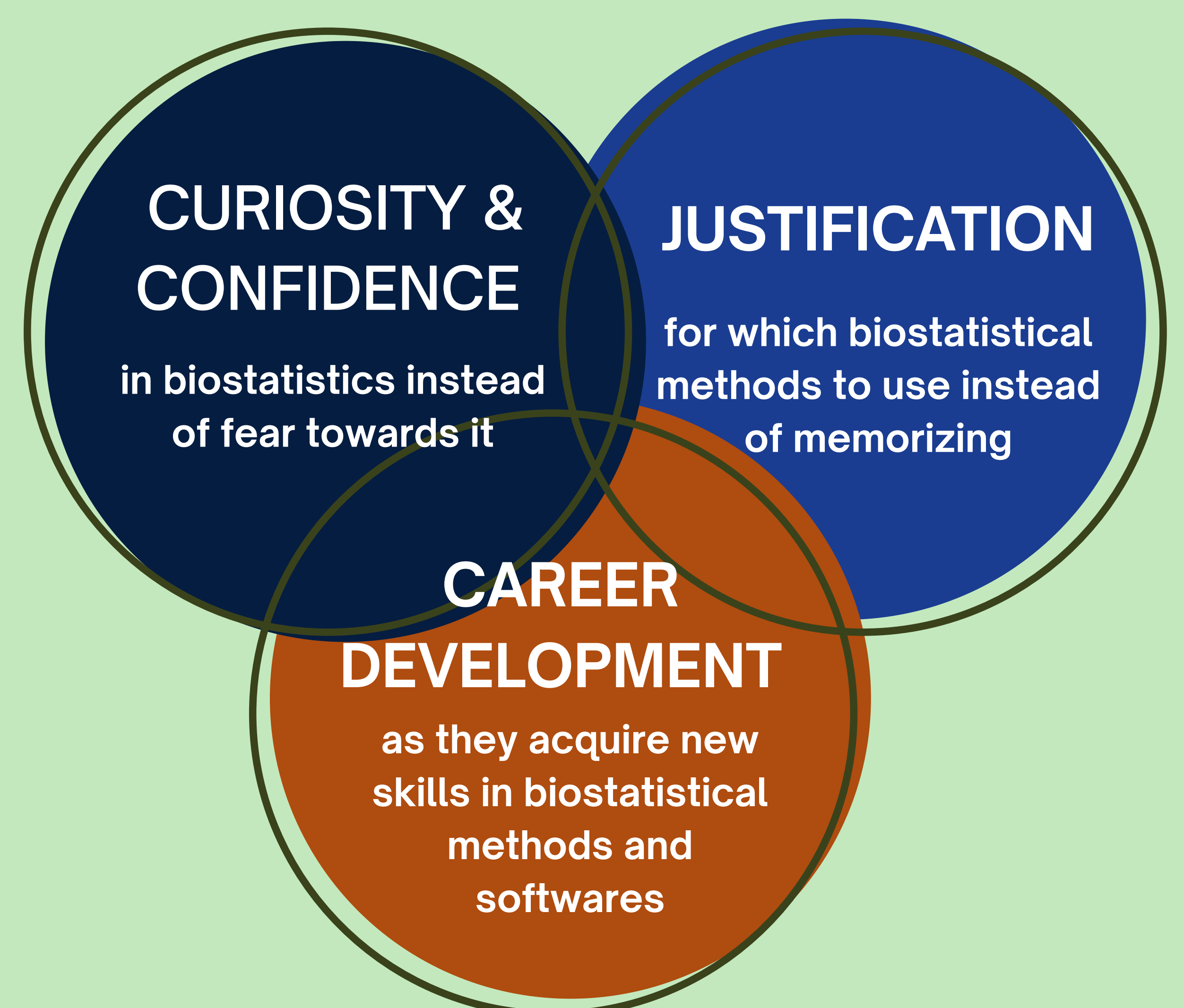
1 LIKERT SCALE

Comparison of Attitudes towards Biostatistics amongst MRes Post-grad Students



2 THEMATIC ANALYSIS

From the interviews the following themes were found



CONCLUSION

The MRes biostatistics assignment combats statistics phobia by building confidence in students to justify statistical methods over acquiring knowledge.

Despite limited numbers in students, its impact is clear, with many acquiring statistical skills useful in their field of choice.



REFERENCES

NEXT STEPS

- 1 Publish this pilot study in a journal
- 2 Attain a grant to test the biostatistical assignment with MBBS students at ULAN
- 3 Change research education towards criticism over knowledge



FEAR THE NUMBERS, FAIL THE EVIDENCE