



The program administration incorrectly considered dehydration to be a mind-over-body problem versus a physiologic phenomenon. By depriving students the ability to carry water, especially during their initial heat acclimatization, they inadvertently set-up the potential for this type of incident. The problem is compounded by the in-house culture that students are a "wimp" if they ask for/need water, traveling during the heat of the day (rather than at night or early morning), and by course history "We see this all the time and everyone ends up okay."

Has the students been given time to acclimatize to the heat, traveled during the coolest part of the 24 hour cycle, and carried enough water to avoid dehydration, this incident could have been avoided. Had the instructors given water and immediately cooled all students complaining of the heat and/or exhibiting mental status changes, it's likely the incident could also have been avoided.

