

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS PERCEPTIONS REGARDING TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Background and Objective: Medical education now-a-days is student's centered with active involvement of students. This study was planned to determine emerging trends of medical education among students.

Methods: It was a cross sectional study conducted on 93 students of second year MBBS in Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College, Lahore. A questionnaire was given to each participant for completion. The questionnaire included questions about parent's education, methods of teaching and tools of assessment.

Results: Parents of 80% students had education of bachelor level or above. Use of combination of audio-visual aids in lectures was liked by students. Majority of students (81%) considered tutorials (small group discussion) as the most effective way of learning. Students liked friendly and professionally competent teachers. 58% students preferred short essay questions (SEQs) assessment as compared to multiple choice questions (MCQs) and viva voce.

Conclusion: Students of Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College consider tutorials (small group discussion) as the most effective way of learning and short essay questions as a better method of assessment.

Key Words: Medical education, Tutorials, Multiple choice questions (MCQs), Short essay questions (SEQs).

INTRODUCTION

Medical education is a dynamic process and there are certain emerging trends in medical education. Over the past decade, integrated teaching, problem based learning, community based learning and core curricula with electives have been incorporated in medical education.¹ The style and method of medical education has been drastically changed to achieve the new learning objective.^{2,3} In the past, medical teaching was more teachers centered, students only listened to their teachers without any active participation but now in the new method of teaching, the students have to plan for their learning, set goals and change their behavior for understanding. The current strategy is to use a combination of various teaching methods to have student's centered instead of teacher centered teaching, to foster student's learning and performance.^{4,5}

Multiple choice questions (MCQs) have become a very important component of assessment in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education as it is more reliable and valid tool for written assessment.⁶ Properly constructed MCQs can test higher levels of cognitive domains.^{7,8} Essay questions are also an important component of the assessment. These questions assess students understanding of the subject matter

and also assess students writing abilities.⁹

It is essential to plan educational activities that aim to improve and assess knowledge, competency and performance outcomes.⁸ The present study was planned for the undergraduate students to find out their perceptions regarding teaching and assessment practices at Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College, Lahore. In addition, information was collected about the parental educational level, teachers behavior and criteria of respect of teachers.

PARTICIPANTS AND METHODS

A cross sectional study was conducted in Department of Physiology, Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College, Lahore from April, 2015 to June, 2015. Ninety three students of Second year MBBS (session 2013 – 14) were included in this study. Informed written consent was taken from each student. A questionnaire was given to each participant for completion. The proforma included questions about parent's education, methods of teaching, mode of assessment and other aspects of medical education.

RESULTS

Parents of about 80% students had education of bach-

elor level or above (Table 1). Regarding the use of audiovisual aids in lectures by the teachers, 47% of students considered combination of these audiovisual aids to be most effective (Figure 1). Majority of students (81%) like small group discussion or tutorial and consider the most effective way of learning (Table 2). Most of students consider that teacher should have friendly behavior (Table 3). About 60% students respect the

Table 1: Education level of parents of students.

Education Level	Number	Percentage
Matric	18	19%
Bachelor	17	18%
Lawyers	8	9%
Masters	27	29%
Doctors (MBBS)	23	25%
Total	93	100%

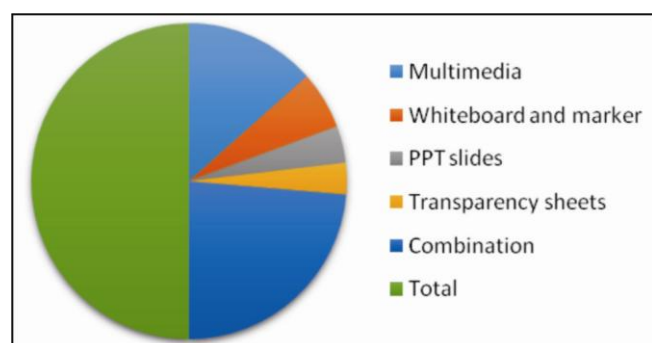


Fig. 1: Audiovisual aids used in lectures liked by students.

Table 2: Teaching method liked by students.

Teaching Method	Number	Percentage
Tutorials (Small group)	75	81%
Lectures	15	16%
PBL	3	3%
Total	93	100%

Table 3: Behavior of teacher liked by students.

Teacher's Behavior	Number	Percentage
Friendly	73	78%
Professional	15	16%
Strict	3	3%
O	2	3%
Total	93	100%

teachers having effective teaching skills (Table 4). 58% of students like subjective (SEQs) type of assessment (Figure 2).

Table 4: Criteria of respect of teachers.

Criteria	Number	Percentage
Teaching skills	55	59%
Moral and character	13	14%
Feeling of respect	25	27%
Total	93	100%

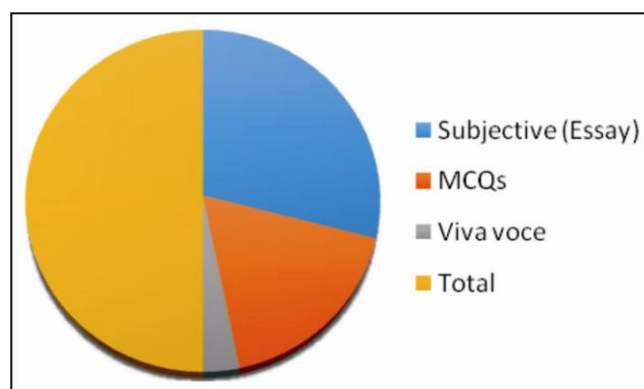


Fig.2: Types of assessment liked by students.

DISCUSSION

The present study highlighted certain trends of medical education in students of Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College, Lahore. Most of the students had high educational family back ground. Students liked combination of audiovisual aids in their lectures. Students respected those teachers who were friendly and possessed good teaching skills. The teacher's role is not simply to provide information but to encourage and facilitate them to learn.^{10,11} Majority of students considered tutorials (small group discussion) as the most effective way of learning. Assessment scores improve by conducting small group discussion.^{12,13} 58% of students considered short essay (SEQ) questions as better method of assessment. Essay questions are affective in assessing complex learning outcomes and these enable students to demonstrate their reasoning. Moreover essay questions are also easy to construct.⁹

It is **concluded** that students of Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College consider tutorials (small group discussion) as the most effective tool of learning and short essay questions as better method of assessment.

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Authors' Contribution

H.J.Q.: Supervision of data collection, literature search and manuscript writing.

M.H, M.A.B, S.A, M.U.F, R.T. Questionnaire preparation and data collection.

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