



"COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT TEACHING METHODOLOGIES IN A MEDICAL COLLEGE IN NORTH INDIA."

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ABSTRACT

Introduction - In medicine learning is a lifelong process. Learning in an educational institute is an active process. The most accepted criterion for measuring good teaching technique is the how much student learns from teaching. During the past few years the teaching methods in the classrooms has changed from the traditional chalk & talk to more advanced power point or combination of both methods. In this study we want to resolve this question of the most appropriate technique to be useful for the medical students.

Objective - Present study was planned in a medical college of north India, to assess the students' observation on traditional chalk & talk, PPT or combination of both methods.

Method - It is a cross sectional study, in which 100 medical student participated. They provided a questionnaire of 8 questions out of which 7 were objective type & 1 was subjective type.

Results - 25% students likes the traditional way of teaching whereas 20% students likes the power point while 55% students likes combination of both traditional and PPT. Majority of student (90%) find that case discussion in the lectures help in better understanding of the topic.

Conclusion - Regardless of the teaching aid used the impact of a lecture depends on the teacher.

KEYWORDS : Teaching methods, medical students, Chalk and talk, PPT.

INTRODUCTION

Learning in an educational institute is an active process in which the student and teacher have to work mutually to make the knowledge-sharing process enjoyable and easier for comprehension. In India medical colleges and universities are experiencing a significant growth in student enrolment recently. In medicine learning is a lifelong process. The most accepted criterion for measuring good teaching technique is the how much student learns from teaching. For effective learning teaching should facilitate development of analytical approaches to a problem and to address areas which pose difficulties for students. Thus, it becomes essential to utilize an approach to teaching and learning that is best suited to the needs of the students (1). Those who learned more gave their teachers higher ratings (2). This same criterion was also put forth by Thomas Angelo, when he said; "teaching in the absence of learning is just talking."

As consumers, Cuseo (3) claims that students can judge what is taught and how it is taught, yet Braskamp & Ory (4) (1994) claim that students can only provide information with respect to teaching. However, Ory sums it up best stating: "unless they haven't been to class, as consumers they have a legitimate voice". Theall (5) mentioned that the students can answer questions about the quality of lectures, the value of readings and assignments, the clarity of the instructor's explanations. Students are certainly qualified to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the experience. They have a right to express their opinions in any case, and no one else can report the extent to which the experience was useful, productive, informative, satisfying, or worthwhile.

During the past few years the teaching methods in the classrooms has changed from the traditional chalk & talk to more advanced power point or combination of both methods. According to one study (6) traditional class with chalk & talk were superior while another study (7) goes in favour of PPT. So is not clear whether a particular lecture delivery method is superior to others. In this study we want to resolve this question of the most appropriate technique to be useful for the medical students of our college through the help of questionnaires provided to the medical students.

Therefore, the present study was planned in a medical college of north India, to assess the students' observation on traditional chalk & talk, PPT or combination of both methods.

METHODOLOGY:

It is a cross sectional study, in which 100 medical student participated. They provided a questionnaire of 8 questions out of which 7 were objective type & 1 was subjective type. The objective and importance of questionnaire was explained in the class before distributing questionnaire. The name of respondents was kept optional to improve authenticity of responses. As this was an open study the results are shown with the help of percentages.

RESULTS -

25% students likes the traditional way of teaching whereas 20% students likes the power point while 55% students likes combination of both traditional and PPT by their teachers to present their lectures. (Figure 1) 65% students find more concentration and less distraction and 68% find their class mates more attentive and least disturbing to them during traditional way of teaching. When we talk about the technique by which students can easily memorize the topic 70% were in favour of combination of both traditional and PPT. 60% and 35% students felt that notes writing were easy during traditional teaching and combination of both traditional and PPT respectively. Majority of student (90%) find that case discussion in the lectures help in better understanding of the topic. In this study it was revealing that students are not comfortable to ask questions in the class.

DISCUSSION:

A good teacher is a good communicator. Communication is a complex process and has five main components viz. sender (source/ teacher), receiver (audience/ students), message (content/ lecture), channels (medium/traditional chalk & talk & PPT) and feedback (effect). In this study we are trying to observe impact of medium on feedback.

In medical colleges of India lecturers are the most common form of teaching and learning. Students felt that they are more oriented to topic with combination of Traditional and PPT

as compared to PPT alone. The reason for this may be due to in combination method teacher and student communication is better and some difficult chart and images can easily explained. During exclusive PPT teaching due to dark environment teacher can't monitor every student's activity. More than 50% students felt that notes writing were easy during chalk & talk. This may be due to students being able to compete with teacher's speed of writing, which is not possible with PPT.

Chalk and Talk

Merits: Student- teacher interaction is better, it encourages taking down the notes and diagrams as the students follow the hands of the teacher,

Demerits: Poor handwriting is not legible. Also fewer diagrams can be provided and less information can be covered in the lecture.

PPT

Merits: Better quality text and diagrams, complicated material can be making easy by 3d animations, cartoons and pictures.

Demerits: Power failure, some teachers go too fast and then students find it difficult to take down the notes and diagrams, dark room so distraction of students easy.

Combination of Chalk and talk and PPT –

Merits – Better interaction between teacher and student as well as complicated chart and images easily explained.

General Suggestions:

1. Sufficient time should be given during PPT for students to take down their notes and the diagrams.
2. Some teachers should improve their hand writing.
3. PPT should contain more diagrams than text.

Our society these days are divided in to two different way of thinking on the education. Some believe that modern methods are better than the traditional method of teaching but yet these two methods are both a successful way.

But Both traditional and new methods have some pros and cons. In our study it is found that if combination of both techniques is used, is more student friendly as well as difficult topics can easily be explained. Case discussion during lecturer even more helpful for student to learn difficult topics. In some studies although discussion method's in small groups appear to be a superior method of attaining higher-level intellectual learning (8)

CONCLUSION:

Regardless of the teaching aid used the impact of a lecture depends on the teacher. If teacher and student communication is better learning among students will also be better.

The Questionnaire

1) Which of the following technique do you find most appropriate for better understanding and interest generation:

- a) Traditional (Chalk & Talk)
- b) Power Point
- c) Combined

2) In which technique you find more concentration & less distraction.

- a) Traditional (Chalk & Talk)
- b) Power Point
- c) Combined

3) Which technique will help in easy memorizing?

a) Traditional (Chalk & Talk)

b) Power Point

c) Combined

4) In which technique, it is easy to note down the important points.

a) Traditional (Chalk & Talk)

b) Power Point

c) Combined

5) In your opinion which technique makes your classmates more attentive & least disturbing to you?

a) Traditional (Chalk & Talk)

b) Power Point

c) Combined

6) Does case discussion in the lectures help in better understanding of the topic?

Yes/No

7) Do you find it comfortable to ask a question in the class?

8) Suggest your opinion to improve classroom teaching with the use of present techniques in not more than 50 words

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