



AWARENESS ABOUT SELF DIRECTED LEARNING AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS IN INDIA.

Medical Education

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in different medical colleges in India to study about awareness regarding self-directed learning (SDL). The participants included medical students from the First year of MBBS Till Internship. Their Age was 18 years onwards which included both male and female participants. Among the students 6.7% from 1st year MBBS, 11.5% 2nd year, 16.3% 3rd Year, 15.4% 4th Year & 50% were Interns. About 74% of the participants were aware of SDL.

KEYWORDS

Awareness, Medical Students, Self-Directed Learning (SDL).

INTRODUCTION

Self-directed learning is a vital educational Principle in higher education that has been promoted by various institutions due to its value in developing professionals to become lifelong learners. [1] SDL is generally defined as learning on one's initiative. Through the advancement of our conceptualization of SDL as well as methodological approaches & ability to measure the outcome of SDL, we can better prepare & maintain the skills of our physician workforce [2]. Self-directed learning is a concept that can help in matching with the ever-expanding medical knowledge [3].

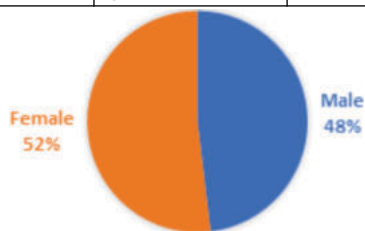
MATERIALS & METHODS

This cross-sectional study was conducted among medical students in India. They were aged 18 & above. Their study was conducted with a pretested & pre-validated questionnaire administered via Google Forms. Informed consent was taken on Google Forms. Statistical analysis was done with the data.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

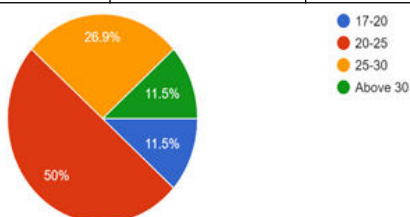
1.No. Of Participants

Participants	No. Of participants	Percentage
Male	50	48%
Female	54	52%
Total	104	



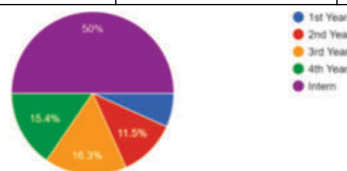
2. Age Of The Participants.

Age	No. of participant's	Percentage
17-20	12	11.5%
20-25	52	50%
25-30	28	26.9%
Above 30	12	11.5%



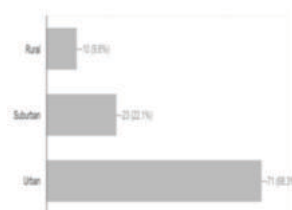
3.Academic Year Of Medical Student.

Academic Year	No. of participants	Percentage
1 st Year	7	6.7%
2 nd year	12	11.5%
3 rd year	17	16.3%
4 th year	16	15.4%
Intern	52	50%



4. Residence Of Participants.

Residence	No. of participants	Percentage
Rural	10	9.6%
Suburban	23	22.1%
Urban	71	68.3%

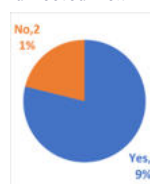


5: Awareness About Self-directed Learning.

Awareness	No. Of Participants	Percentage
Yes	77	74%
No	27	26%



6: Opinion About Is Self-directed Learning Student Centric.



Response	No of Participants	Percentage
Yes	82	79%
No	22	21%

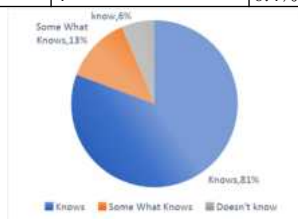
7: Medical Students Perception About Importance Of Developing SDL Skills.

Response	No of Participants	Percentage
Yes	96	97%
No	23	2%



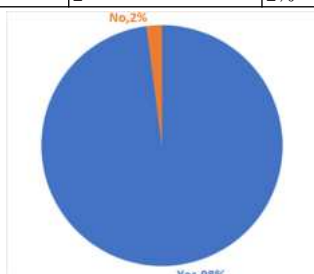
8: Medical Student's Opinion About Principal Ideas Behind SDL.

Opinion	No. of participants	Percentage
Knows	50	80.6%
Some What knows	8	12.9%
Doesn't know	4	6.4%



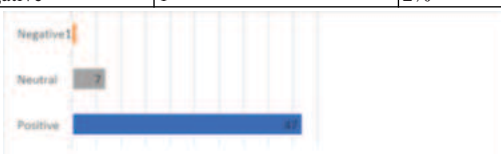
9: Medical Student's Opinion About Is SDL Valuable Or Not.

Opinion	No. of participants	Percentage
Yes	96	98%
No	2	2%



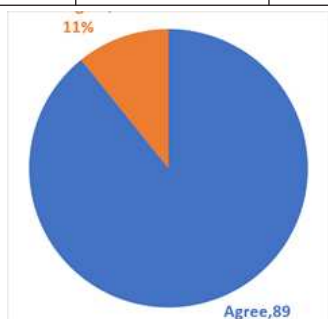
10: Medical Student's Testimony About How SDL Helped Them In Medical University.

Response	No. of Participants	Percentage
Positive	47	85%
Neutral	7	13%
Negative	1	2%



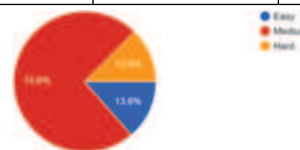
11: Percentage Of Students Comfortable About SDL In Medical Topics

Opinion	No. of Participants	Percentage
Agree	91	89%
Disagree	11	11%



12: Use of SDL Amongst Medical Students In Different Difficulty Levels.

Difficulty level of topics	No. of participants	Percentage
Easy	14	13.6%
Medium	76	73.8%
Hard	13	12.6%



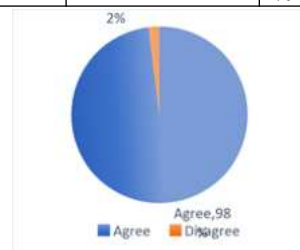
13: How Often Medical Students Set Learning Goals.

Frequency	No. of Participants	Percentage
Always	91	89.2%
Never	11	10.8%



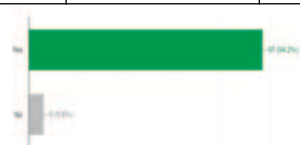
14: Opinion Of Medical Student About How Much SDL Improved There Problem-solving Skills.

Opinion	No of participants	Percentage
Agree	99	98%
Disagree	2	2%



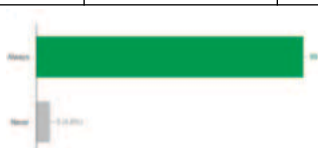
15: Confidence Of Medical Students To Teach Themselves New Medical Topics

Confidence	No. of Participants	Percentage
Yes	97	94.2%
No	6	5.8%



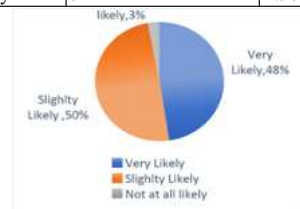
16: Percentage Of Medical Students Who Seek Learning Resources On Their Own.

Frequency	No. of Participants	Percentage
Always	99	95.2%
Never	5	4.8%



17: Percentage Of Medical Student Who Try To Solve Problems On Their Own Before Seeking Help.

Opinion	No. of Participants	Percentage
Very Likely	49	47.6%
Slightly Likely	51	49.5%
Not at all Likely	3	2.9%

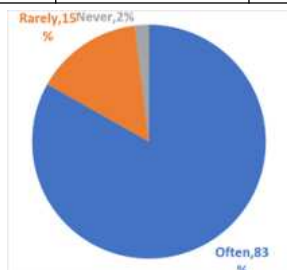


18: Percentage Of Medical Students Who Are Comfortable To Learn From Mistakes.

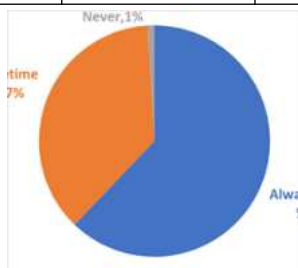
Opinion	No. Of participants	Percentage
Very Comfortable	70	68%
Slightly Comfortable	30	29.1%
Not at all Comfortable	3	2.9%

**19: Percentage Of Medical Students Who Reflect On What They Have Learnt And Apply It During Rounds.**

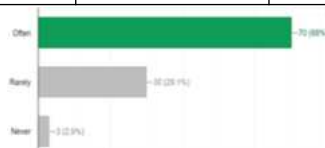
Frequency	No. of participants	Percentage
Often	84	83.2%
Rarely	15	14.9%
Never	2	2%

**20: Percentage Of Students Who Enjoy Learning New Topics On Their Own.**

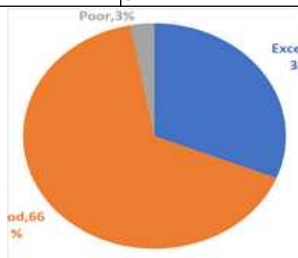
Opinion	No. of participants	Percentage
Always	64	62.1%
Sometimes	38	36.9%
Never	1	1%

**21: Percentage Of Medical Students Who Take Initiative To Learn Something New Outside Of Structured Setting.**

Frequency	No. of Participants	Percentage
Often	70	68%
Rarely	30	29.1%
Never	3	2.9%

**22: Percentage Of Ability Of Medical Students To Stay Motivated When Learning New Topics**

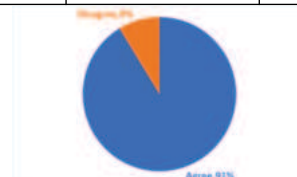
Ability to stay motivated	No. of participants	Percentage
Excellent	32	31.1%
Good	68	66%
Poor	3	2.9%

**23: Percentage Of Medical Students Who Are Comfortable Asking Questions In A Traditional Class.**

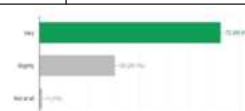
Opinion	No. of Participants	Percentage
Very Likely	50	48.1%
Slightly Likely	49	47.1%
Not at all Likely	5	4.8%

**24: Percentage Of Medical Student Who Believe The Skills They Learn On Their Own Is As Valuable As Those They Learn In A Traditional Class.**

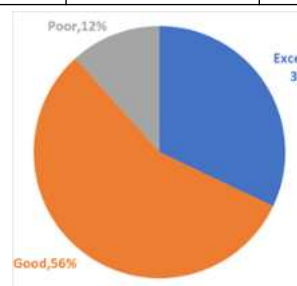
Opinion	No of Participants	Percentage
Agree	94	91%
Disagree	9	9%

**25: Medical Students Who Enjoy The Process Of Finding Solutions To Problems On Their Own.**

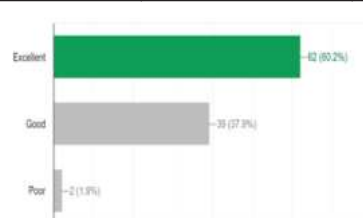
Opinion	No. of Participants	Percentage
Very	72	69.9%
Slightly	30	29.1%
Not at all	1	1%

**26: Opinion Of Students About Their Ability To Understand And Retain Information In A Traditional Class**

Opinion	No. of participants	Percentage
Excellent	33	32%
Good	58	56.3%
Poor	12	11.7%

**27: Opinion Of Students About Their Ability To Understand And Retain Information When Learning On Their Own.**

Opinion	No. of participants	Percentage
Excellent	62	60.2%
Good	39	37.9%
Poor	2	1.9%



In the study, 11.5% among the age group of 18-20 years, 50% 21-25 years, 26.9% 26-30 years, 11.5% were above 30 years of age. Total number of participants were 104. Among them Male 48% & Female 52%.

Among the participants, 74% were aware of SDL. Self-directed learning is considered a vital learning parameter in health professions studies [4]. An important requirement for lifelong learning ability is the ability to direct their learning independently (Self-directed learning/SDL).[5]

In their study, the participant's perception of the importance of SDL 97% agreed with the importance. SDL is mainly of two types facilitated learning where the teacher plays the role of a facilitator & self-paced learning in which the learner has a more active role in learning at his own pace & attends assessments guided by a teacher.[6] 98% of the participants were answered yes about SDL valuable or not. Nowadays different innovative teaching methods with a focus on students inculcate self-directed learning & those methods have more retention of knowledge of the subject.[7] The difficulty level among the students was 12.6%. The specific learning objective of SDL should be structured well understood by the students so that they do not face challenges while trying to learn by themselves.[8] SDL cuts across all domains of learning and has significant potential in shaping transformational learning experiences.[9]

Among the participants, 62.1% of students enjoyed learning new topics on their own. Self-directed learning (SDL) has been suggested as a promising methodology for lifelong learning in medicine. [10]

CONCLUSION

SDL is a potential methodology to promote lifelong learning in medical education. SDL is considered a component of a Physician's professional identity.

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