

e- Learning, Effective tool in Medical Education and Student Experience

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Learning is a permanent change in the behavior as a result of planned experiences. e-learning is the use of electronic media. The aim of the study is to know and evaluate student experience for this novel blended teaching and learning experience.

Material and Methods: The students chosen for this prospective cross sectional analysis were students of MBBS, 2nd Phase. At the end of the fourth week of continuous e-learning sessions, the questionnaire was posted. Students opinion were collected regarding course content, course delivery and learning experience.

Results: 50% of the students are very comfortable with e-learning. Out of the 40 students, 24 (60%) expected satisfaction, 06 (15%) were not regular because of reasons like system failure and poor student compliance. 10 (25%) students were happy with regular class room teaching.

Conclusion: E-learning is upon the faculty to recognize the need for introduction of new forms of education and to implement blended education. It encourages student community to learn with newer education techniques with more and more enthusiasm.

Keywords: e-learning, modules, students.

INTRODUCTION

Learning is a permanent change in the behavior as a result of planned experiences. It results from the interaction between what we knew, new information we encounter and what we do as we learn. Education is changing from Socratic methods to cyber learning. Technology is increasingly influential factor in education and it's a boon to education, it offers powerful learning tools such as multimedia and virtual learning environments. Online resources can reach out across time and space barriers. e-learning is the use of electronic media. "e" should mean exciting, energetic, enthusiastic, emotional, extended, excellent, educational and electronic.¹

1. "e" should be everything, engaging and easy.

2. e- Learning enhances both students and instructors education experience.

It's a process of learning, where computers are used at each step, enrollment, content delivery, evaluation, assessment and support. When e-learning is combined with traditional learning, it is called blended learning.

Education and training is one of the largest sector in world economy. e-learning is recognized as having the power to transform the performance and knowledge skills. It has the potential to improve the quality of learning, improve access to education and improve cost effectiveness in education.²

The aim of the study was to know and evaluate student experience for this novel blended teaching and learning experience.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The students chosen randomly for this prospective cross

sectional analysis were students of MBBS, 2nd Phase. Study was done in 2015 August. Students with little information technology (IT) knowledge, who knows how to use personal computers and smart phones were chosen. Topics were posted to them. An integrated approach to the teaching was taken up. Basic concepts like Anatomy, Physiology were dealt and followed by Pathology in detail. Clinical diagnosis, discussion on signs and symptoms and finally therapeutic details were discussed.

At the end of the fourth week of continuous e-learning sessions, the questionnaire was posted. Student's opinion were collected regarding course content, course delivery and learning experience.

In the present study, 2 to 3 topics of pathology and case reports were discussed. The level of understanding was evaluated between two groups. Group-1 - Blended learning, i.e., regular class room teaching and e-learning. Group-2 - with class room teaching alone.

All the students completing the module were given a questionnaire. The questionnaire included 2 types of questions. 1. Those that invite over all comments. 2. Those that invite comments on specific aspects of the module.³

The questions asked for over all comments are³:

- 1) Detail up 3 aspects of the module that you have found most useful.
- 2) Detail up 3 aspects of module that you could improve upon.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Student's comments on comfortableness in using e-learning were evaluated and tabulated with the help of Microsoft Office 2007.

RESULTS

All 40 students after completing the module, students understanding nature was assessed by asking them simple questions whether they are comfort with modules or not (Figure-1). 50% of the students were very comfortable with e-learning.

After analysis of students answers to various questionnaire at the end of 4 weeks, there satisfactoriness was calculated. Out of the 40 students, 24 (60%) expected satisfaction, 06 (15%)

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| | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Irregular |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| No. of Students | 24 | 6 | 10 |
| Percentage | 60% | 15% | 25% |

Table-2: Assessment of students satisfactoriness towards e-learning programme

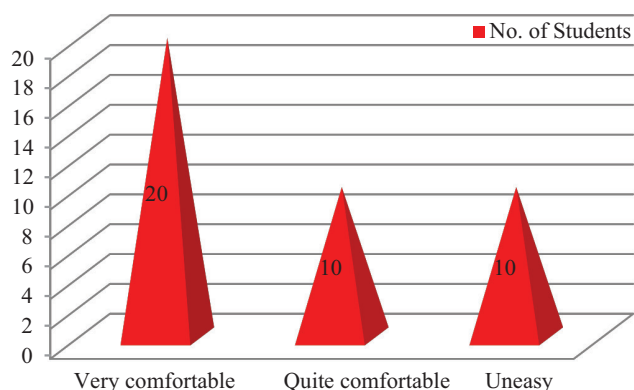


Figure-1: Assessment of student comfort

were not regular because of reasons like system failure and poor student compliance. 10 (25%) students were happy with regular class room teaching (Table-2).

DISCUSSION

e-learning is distance education using internet and other information technologies. e-learning will develop new educational methods and it will increase the opportunities and increases educational effectiveness.⁴

e-learning has come to play an important role as a method to provide university education across national borders, mainly in Europe, USA and Australia.²

In the present study, 50% of the students are very comfortable with e-learning., 25% were quite comfortable and 25% were uneasy with e-learning.

Out of the 40 students, 24 (60%) expected satisfaction, 06 (15%) were not regular because of reasons like system failure and poor student compliance. 10 (25%) students were happy with regular class room teaching in this study.

In spite of e-learning being promoted as an effective tool in learning methods, it's not yet promoted to full scale utilization. This situation seems to be due to the fact that universities and learners do not have the needs for e-learning, or that they do not realize that the need really exists. The important and vital requirement in e-learning is a student motivation.⁵ A highly motivated student who doesn't require the initiation by a teacher is the element of priority in e-learning. e-learning is used by working students, i.e., those who are having a job and want to improve their skill and knowledge.

Students at medical colleges can use e-learning, where in teachers can directly upload their presentations, lectures on the e-learning sites. Using log on credentials, students can have access to the presentations, download them to their computers or hand held devices. Since e-learning is available on the internet, it is easy for the faculty to manage the course, content, either from the department or from the hospital.

CONCLUSION

Tele education doesn't include traditional learning practices, it

can be used as blended learning method. In blended learning method, tele education technology is combined with traditional instructor led training but a lecture is supplemented by online tutorial.

E-learning is upon the faculty to recognize the need for introduction of new forms of education and to implement blended education. It encourages student community to learn with newer education techniques with more and more enthusiasm.

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