PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT’S PREFERENCE FOR LEARNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 may have lasting impact on how the future medical students are educated. These are unusual times, this pandemic presents practical and planning challenges and concerns for student, staff and patient safety, remembering and understanding that they may potentially spread the virus when asymptomatic and may acquire the virus in the course of interaction is crucial. This article discusses the current scenario of medical education, and explores preference of students for learning during COVID-19. With the help of a self-created questionnaire, 138 physiotherapy students responded for the study. All students showed enthusiasm for the future use of blended learning method but students almost equally preferred traditional learning. Hence it needs due consideration in education sector for future permanent implementation.

Keywords: Online, traditional, blended, education, internet, technology, Covid-19

I. INTRODUCTION:

Face-to-face learning and e-learning combined is known as Blended learning, which has grown in popularity recently, it is a vital make over that alters the formation of, and attitude towards teaching and learning. Despite that its effectiveness as a learning approach has not been completely measured until now.

Traditional education, also known as standard education or prevailing education, refers to deep rooted practices that society habitually used in schools.

The traditional prototype of learning focuses on, the traditional learning where in didactic teaching system is used which centers on lecture based teaching for the transmission of knowledge and the reflections of the teacher.

E-learning is now a global phenomenon, with around 5.7 million students each year opting for various courses online. The introduction of information technology in learning improves the quality and accessibility for student and faculty. Many studies inferred that there were important variations in the end results between E-learning and traditional learning.

Despite the benefits, many studies have shown that E-learning has a negative impact on student’s progress; it was observed that students felt isolated and students with language barrier experienced limitations in a text-based online environment. Thus we designed this particular study to explore physiotherapy student’s preferred learning method.

Aim: To study the preference of Physiotherapy students for learning during Covid-19 Pandemic.

Objective:
To study Physiotherapy Student’s views on:
1. Traditional learning
2. Online learning
3. Blended learning
So as to know the preference, suggestions, technical issues and feasibility of mode of learning during Covid-19 Pandemic as put forth by participating Physiotherapy students.

**Methodology**

A Descriptive study was undertaken to gather physiotherapy student’s preferred method for the learning during COVID-19 pandemic. Google Forms were used to collect the primary data. Questionnaire validation was done by two subject experts and pilot study was conducted to see the efficacy of the questionnaire. The convenience sampling method had been used .Google Form links were circulated among the physiotherapy student population at Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth. Participating students filled the forms anonymously. Responses were collected and analyzed with Descriptive statistics.

**II. DATA ANALYSIS –**

**CHART 1: ACADEMIC YEAR**

- First: 35%
- Second: 37.2%
- Third: 26.3%

**CHART 2: INTERNET ISSUES FACED BY THE STUDENTS**

- Yes: 72.5%
- No: 27.5%

**CHART 3: WILL TRAINING FROM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIST BENEFIT THE STUDENT’S?**

- Yes: 62.3%
- No: 37.7%
CHART 4: STUDENT’S PREFERENCE FOR ASSIGNMENTS

- 43.8% prefer online assignments
- 56.2% prefer traditional assignments

CHART 5: STUDENT’S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BLENDED LEARNING

- 26.8% know about blended learning
- 73.2% do not know about blended learning

CHART 6: FOR STUDENT’S, QUALITY OF LEARNING IS MORE IN?

- 34.8% prefer traditional learning
- 34.8% prefer online learning
- 30.4% prefer blended learning

CHART 7: EDUCATION PREFERENCE OF STUDENTS

- 35.5% prefer traditional (face to face)
- 50.9% prefer online
- 13.6% prefer blended
CHART 8: IS SELF LEARNING EASY?

- Yes: 59.4%
- No: 40.6%

CHART 9: DO THE STUDENT'S FEEL ISOLATED?

- Sometimes: 32.9%
- No: 47.4%
- Many times: 11.7%
- Always: 8%

CHART 10: WHAT DO THE STUDENT'S MISS DUE TO ONLINE LEARNING?

- a) Teacher interaction: 76.9%
- b) Peer interaction: 11.9%
- c) Travelling: 11.9%
- d) On campus life: 11.9%
- e) All of the above: 11.9%

CHART 11: FUTURE CHOICE FOR LEARNING?

- On campus education: 52.9%
- Online education: 44.2%
- Blended learning: 3.1%
III. DISCUSSION:

This research study is a part of a project which aims to analyse the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on education sector\textsuperscript{12, 13, 14, and 15}. This study is conducted to analyze the preference of Physiotherapy students for learning during covid-19 pandemic.

Even though there are benefits in E-learning numerous studies have noted negative effect on Student’s psyche, it was seen that students may feel isolated, parents felt that children’s social Development could be affected and students with language barriers can feel a lack in a text-based E-learning environment.

It has been seen that ambition and skill cannot be inculcated when students are permitted to complete assignments on their own without time restraints\textsuperscript{11, 16, and 17}.

Results discussed here are for preferred methods of learning during Covid-19 pandemic situation. Analyzing the learning preference of physiotherapy students and suggesting new methods of learning was the basis of this study.

Chart 1, illustrates Academic year of students, maximum students were from the third year and final year, which infers that the respondents had good experience of traditional learning as well as E-learning.

From Chart 2, 3 and 4 it was seen that the Physiotherapy students preferred online assignments, they did not opt for training from an I.T professional for E-learning but had problems only due to internet connectivity, it can be concluded that network connectivity issues posed more problems for the students rather than application of technology.\textsuperscript{3, 5, 8, 11}

From Chart 5, 6, 7 and 8 it can be analyzed that students had adequate knowledge about blended learning, but preferred traditional learning methods and self-learning was difficult for them. Literature review suggests that traditional learners are still adapting to E-learning.\textsuperscript{1, 4, 11, 16, 17}

Chart 9, 10 and 11 it was seen that the physiotherapy students felt isolated and lacked human interaction during E-learning and hence preferred Traditional learning method as the ideal method of learning. Our study agrees with the other literature that balanced approach is very essential for better learning outcome and success of the students.\textsuperscript{1, 3, 4, 5, and 11}

IV. CONCLUSION:

Physiotherapy Student’s preference in learning during Covid-19 pandemic, showed positive attitude towards technology but more reliance on traditional learning method. Analyzing the results shows us evidence that although blended learning is accepted by Physiotherapy student’s, they still find Traditional learning to be more gratifying due to human interaction. Students felt less isolated and more in sync with a combination of online and traditional learning. Adopting formats which students prefer and comply with is the new norm for a successful teaching and learning experience.

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