

Attitude and awareness toward teaching and participation in a formal clinical teaching for senior medical students

A. Baala Vignesh, R. Gayatri Devi*, A. Jyothipriya

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The teaching and participation of senior medical students are very important as the experience in the field helps the students to practically understand the subject in a better way and the application of the subject on the clinical field is made easier while working with patients. This survey was done to find out the attitude and awareness of senior medical students toward teaching and participation in formal clinical teaching. **Materials and Methods:** A questionnaire-based survey was done and 100 senior dental and medical students from Chennai actively participated in the survey. The results of the survey are compiled and documented. **Results:** This survey was done to create awareness among senior medical students toward teaching and participation in formal clinical teaching. This survey proved that not many people were confident in formal clinical teaching. **Conclusion:** This survey is done to create awareness of formal clinical teaching for senior medical students and to spread the importance of it in the dental and medical field.

KEY WORDS: Education, Presentations, Teaching

INTRODUCTION

To prepare for careers in medicine, medical trainees must develop clinical teaching skills. It is unclear if medical students need or want to develop such skills.^[1] As the study goes, medical students who teach become better learners, more effective communicators, and better prepared to teach later in their careers. They teach their fellow junior students on communicative techniques and the methodology of communication with the patient.^[2]

Many medical schools provide opportunities for medical students to develop scholarly research skills as prescribed by formal medical school accreditation standards.^[3] On the other hand, there are no formal accreditation requirements mandating the promotion of teaching skills to undergraduate medical students.^[3] However, on the other hand, not many medical students are comfortable in spreading their knowledge of the subject as it plays an important role in the part of a person getting trained to be a medical professional. Thus, it is important to spread the awareness of the

teaching and participation of senior medical students on formal clinical teaching.

Senior medical students at medical schools should be interested in developing their clinical teaching abilities, with a particular interest and educating the future medical professionals and imparting them with the required clinical knowledge.^[4]

The attainment of skills depends largely on the methodology of teaching. In a dental curriculum, the students are exposed to a wide variety of inputs and teaching methodologies from different sources.^[5] Teaching can be of different methods where it can be in the form of lectures, presentations, group learning, etc., every student must be exposed to different types of learning where he will impart knowledge from many sources and will be able to apply it practically. There are various types of learning which includes live demonstrations and the videotaped presentations of the same were found to be equally effective in transmitting preclinical knowledge and clinical skill for the 1st time learners.^[2]

Thus, this survey was done to create an awareness of formal clinical teaching among senior medical students and to spread its importance in the education of a training for a medical professional.

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Department of Physiology, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

*Corresponding author: R. Gayatri Devi, Department of Physiology, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Technical and Medical Sciences, Saveetha University, 162, Poonamallee High Road, Chennai - 600 077, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: gayatri.physio88@gmail.com

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

A questionnaire-based survey was done and 100 senior dental and medical students from Chennai actively participated in the survey. The results of the survey are compiled and documented.

RESULTS

This survey was done to create awareness among senior medical students toward teaching and participation in formal clinical teaching. This survey proved that not many people were confident in formal clinical teaching.

DISCUSSION

From the survey conducted, 42% of the individuals participated wanted to participate in formal clinical teaching [Figure 1]. The others were not interested in participation. Medical students who teach become better learners, more effective communicators, and better prepared to teach later in their career. This implies a benefit from early involvement and engagement in clinical teaching.^[2] Among this people, 64% of them were confident in presenting or teaching other individuals [Figure 2]. The primary aim of this study was to conduct a national needs assessment, based on medical student self-perceptions to guide the development of a formal elective in clinical teaching.^[6] Thus, this helped in increasing the confidence in knowledge of the subject.

The survey also showed that 83% of the individuals [Figure 3] wanted to educate the present trainees about the sensitive issues that need to be taken care of like awareness on spread of diseases, etc., where 17% did not give importance in spreading the awareness of sensitive issues. These medical students in hospitals are in a prime position to mandate policy, systems, procedures, and organizational climates.^[7] Accordingly, many have argued that it is evident that health-care manager possesses an important and obvious role in quality of care and patient safety and that it is one of the highest priorities of health-care managers.^[8] It is important to express on the current sensitive issues as it concerns on the patient's health, preventing them from getting infected from airborne and waterborne diseases. Within literature on health care, there are non-empirical articles providing propositions and descriptions on managerial attitudes and efforts to improve safety and quality.^[9]

About 80.2% of the individuals who participated in the survey conducted felt that it was important to educate people about the ethics of medical practitioners [Figure 4]. Over the past three decades, dental educators have addressed the need for ethic straining and examined varied teaching approaches.

Today, state-of-the-art ethics education has moved from pure instruction to more interactional teaching methods that promote student introspection and group problem-solving.^[10] It is important to educate the dental trainees on the ethics as there are certain

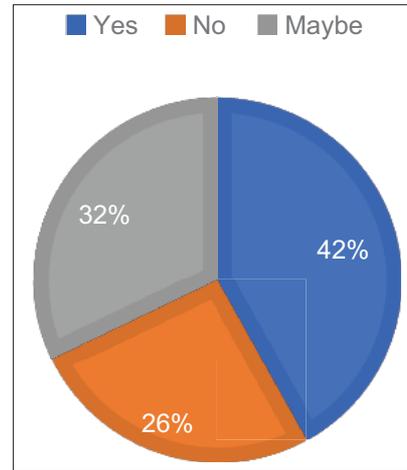


Figure 1: Participate in clinical teaching

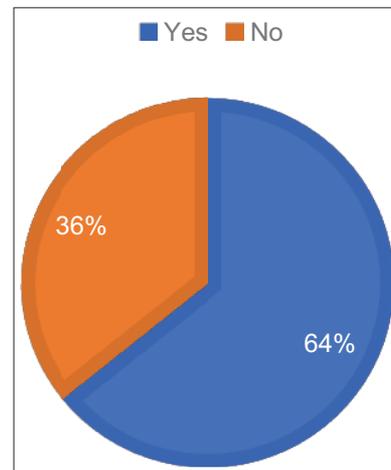


Figure 2: Confident in presenting presentations

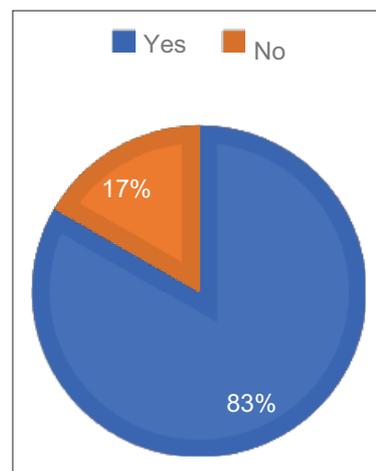


Figure 3: Spreading or educating people about sensitive issues

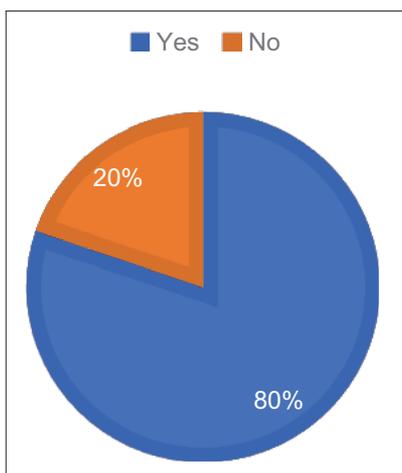


Figure 4: Educate people on the ethics of medical practitioners

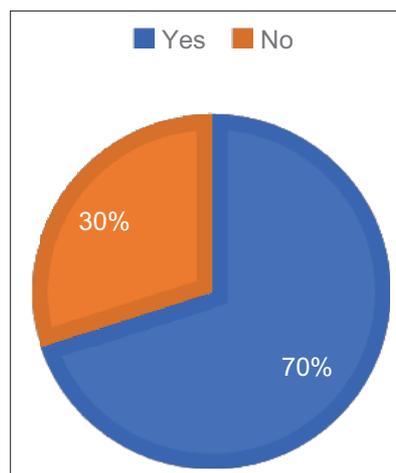


Figure 6: Undertaken research in the area of medical education

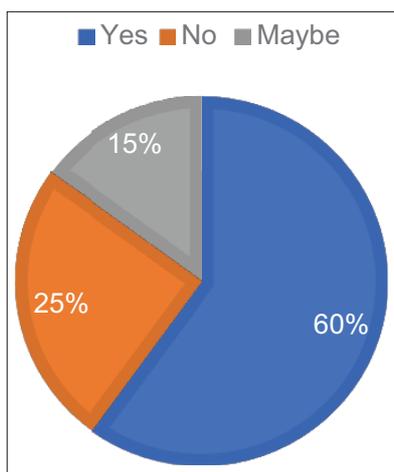


Figure 5: Present in journal clubs or conferences

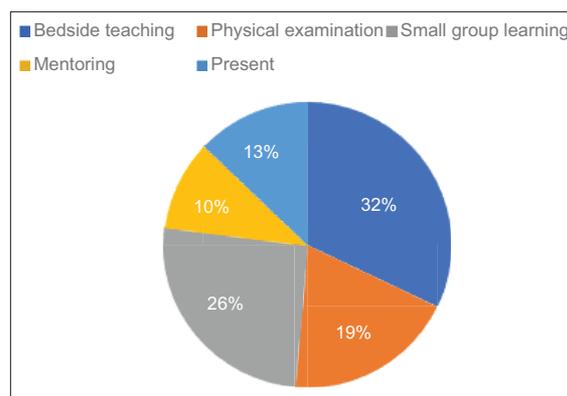


Figure 7: Types of teaching are you interested in

protocols that a dentist has to follow on treating a patient and is important as it is approved by the dental association of India and not following them is a punishable offence.

About 60% of people they wanted to present and spread awareness by presenting presentation in journal clubs [Figure 5]. Journal clubs can be very effective platforms where the students can gather first-hand knowledge on analyzing, evaluating, dissecting, and utilizing the scientific literature. In this era of evidence-based medicine, analyzing the quality, validity, and relevance of the evidence is a skill that must be taught from the early medical school days.^[11] As the advance in the field is growing enormously, it is important to know the recent advances in the fields and journal clubs and is an amazing platform for knowledge with full involvement.

About 70% of the senior medical students have undertaken research as their part of their medical education [Figure 6]. They were comfortable in different types of teaching. Among them 12.7% were

comfortable to educate people by presentations, 10.1% of them were comfortable with mentoring people, 25.3% of them wanted to educating people through small group learning, 20.3% were comfortable with physical examinations, and 31.7% were interested to educate people through bedside teaching [Figure 7]. There is a reasonable absolute number of students who would engage in a formal teaching elective if offered at each medical schools and colleges.^[12] The inclusion of such an elective should strongly be considered as a curricular component in the past year of medical training.^[2] Thus, based on these senior medical students are interested in teaching and they were comfortable in various methods. These, thus, helped dental and medical trainees in their education.

CONCLUSION

From this survey, most of the senior medical students are aware of the importance of the attitude and awareness toward teaching and participation in formal clinical teaching. They are aware of the importance of formal clinical teaching, but among the years, the awareness is lesser compared to the past, and thus, they have to be aware of the latest clinical parameters.

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