Commentary

The Benefits of Using Online Collaborative Learning to Introduce Medical Students to Medical Ethics Training at Medical Institutions

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DESCRIPTION

In order to prepare doctors to make moral decisions, medical ethics is a crucial component of medical education. Worldwide recognition of the value of medical ethics and professional conduct principles has led to the International Federation of Medical Education's recommendation that they be incorporated into medical curricula.

Throughout their training, medical students have reported experiencing regular ethical problems in a variety of circumstances. This has been attributed to insufficient instruction in medical ethics throughout their foundation course as the cause. The code of ethics that medical professionals must follow while practicing has been issued by the Nepal Medical Council, although most of its provisions are not sufficiently known to them. It's possible that this is the cause of the rise in claims of medical malpractice.

This demonstrates the importance of integrating medical ethics instruction within the present university curriculum. Together with this, it can also be aided by the application of active learning techniques like Team-Based Learning (TBL), which can be utilized in environments with limited resources because it can be applied to a large number of students by grouping them into teams.

Because TBL enables health professional instructors to give students the dependable and affordable experience of working in small teams to solve clinical problems, it is growing in popularity in higher education's health disciplines. TBL encourages active learning because it requires students to practice and learn before class, which they must do.

The students' drive for independent study and active engagement in peer interactions encourage improved cooperation skills, which improve academic performance overall and for the weaker students in particular. TBL was demonstrated as an efficient teaching method for Physiology classes in a medical institution in Nepal, and the students regarded it as superior to conventional lecture-based instruction. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began,

most settings now give education entirely online. Its usefulness may be harmed if the online courses are taken conventionally, with a focus on the use of lecture-based delivery. TBL is one of many teaching-learning techniques that can be used to encourage students to participate actively in online instruction.

The students were also warned to plan for essential amenities, such as power backup, and their responses as satisfaction scores indicate that they were content with the compatibility of the online circumstances in the learning environment. Recent research has shown that TBL can be successfully conducted online and that students may enjoy, interact with, and benefit from collaborative learning through it. The kids appeared to be really happy with the online TBL procedure based on their observations as well. They said in their comments that this form of learning fostered active engagement in the classroom, longer attention spans, better interactions with peers and teachers, a greater interest in the subject matter, and assistance with long-term recollection of the material.

The global pattern of medical education has been altered by the COVID-19 epidemic. In order to combat the pandemic, the majority of academic medical centers have created online educational and healthcare delivery systems that are intended to bring about some change in the current system and keep it that way even after the pandemic is over. Despite the urgent need for online medical education, learning effectiveness should be taken into account, and active learning methodologies should be employed.

In researchers scenario, online TBL worked well as a teaching and learning tool. The students gave the learning technique positive reviews and expressed satisfaction with the learning experience. The TBL lessons were a successful means of transferring knowledge of the subject in a way that was efficient, fascinating, and pleasant for the students. The sessions were preferred by the students to typical lectures. Overall, the courses were well-run, and the students appeared to have engaged in and enjoyed them. Online TBL can be more participatory and give students the opportunity for active learning.

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Citation: White M (2023) The Benefits of Using Online Collaborative Learning to Introduce Medical Students to Medical Ethics Training at Medical Institutions. Adv Med Ethics J. 9:028.

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