

Comparative Assessment of Academic Performance among Kims Medical Students before and during Lockdown:a Cross Sectional Study

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How to cite this article: Dattatraya Dinna Bant, A Akshay Subramanian, Sushma H R et al. Comparative Assessment of Academic Performance among Kims Medical Students before and during Lockdown:a Cross Sectional Study. Volume 13 Issue 3 July-September 2022

Abstract

Background: With the advent of Covid[5], it became very difficult to cater to the 1.7 billion[6] students whose education was on a technical hold. With the online classes around it became difficult for the students to imbibe certain basic concepts of knowledge and they had to instead mug-up a lot of portions. All these also led to a deviation from the normal teacher-student relationship. As a consequence it affected the grades a student obtained during the time of lockdown.Hence this study with the objectives to assess the psychological impact of lockdown on students,comparative assement of students before and during lockdown and the pattern of reading from home and college is of significance.

Methodology: A cross sectional study was done for a period of one month on medical students for "Comparative Assessment of medical students before and during lockdown."The students were selected by convenience sampling. A pretested semi structured questionnaire was sent through whatsapp and the data collected.It was entered in Microsoft Excel sheet,analysed using SPSS version 25 and findings were represented in the form of figures and tables.

Conclusion: Even though the number of students gaining first class and second class marks have increased during the period of lockdown,the number of students securing distinction has considerably fallen.Many felt that their reading is far better when at hostel and in the presence of companions in the college campus and with the teacher-student relationship around with in room classes.As a matter of fact majority of them wanted to come back to campus as soon as possible and resume normal in-room classes.

Keywords: Comparative, Assessment, Medical, Before, Lockdown

Introduction

COVID 19 has took us all by surprise and changed the way we live our daily life. In the process there are few things which we have come to be accustomed to like our parents working from home and most of the economic activities taking place through the e-commerce. Having said so,education is quite

different.But e-learning was found to be the only way forward when the epidemic struck without notice^[1].

It was important to cater to the 1.7 billion student population worldwide.Along with the many measures taken by the Government to limit the spread of transmission of Covid,it seemed very obvious that banning colleges from being opened and allowing

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for regular in room classes seemed inappropriate^[2]. Many universities around the world either postponed or cancelled all campus activities to minimize gatherings and hence decrease the transmission of virus. However, these measures lead to higher economical, medical, and social implications on both undergraduate and postgraduate communities.

A sudden switch to the online mode of learning^[7] was received with lot of criticism. Eventhough it did cater to the needs of continuation of knowledge transfer, one has to really ponder why we were not able to replicate in -room classes in the online mode. As a reason, the concepts of primary importance were not fully understood by the students. Students had to mug up certain principles and theories without understanding them. The ever energetic adolescent and young adults of our nation had to sit stoic in front of e-gadgets for hours long leading to various physical morbidity^[3].

Furthermore anxiety set in and the apprehension of completing their college life without a campus feel and knowledge transfer between the 'guru and teacher' dooms large in front. All these have led to deteriorating performance of students^[8] in their college exams.

In this context this particular study with the following aims and objectives find relevance.

Aims and Objectives

to assess the psychological impact of lockdown on students

to compare academic performance of students before and during lockdown

to study the pattern of learning and reading from home and when in hostel.

Materials and Methodology

A cross sectional study was done for a duration of one month from 24 June 2021 to 24 July 2021. The study population were chosen to be the KIMS medical students. Convenient sampling technique was used.

Sample size calculation: In a study conducted by Nanigopal Kapasia et al under the title 'Impact of lockdown on learning status of undergraduate and postgraduate students during COVID 19 pandemic in West Bengal^[4], India it was found that 42% of the study subjects had anxiety as a result of impact of

lockdown on medical students. A sample size of 393 was calculated.

Data collection tool: A pre tested semi structured questionnaire was prepared using Google forms and circulated via Whatsapp to the study subjects for comparative assessment of grades of undergraduates before and during lockdown and to assess the pattern of reading when at home and in hostel , after doing the pilot test and making the necessary changes data collection was continued .The data thus collected was entered into Microsoft Excel sheet, tabulated, analysed using SPSS version 25 and associations between parameters were found and represented in the form of tables and figures.

Result and Discussion

Out of the 393 students who participated in the study, 60.8% study subjects were males and the others were females. 69.7% students resided in urban areas whereas 30.3% students resided in rural areas. There were study subjects from different years of undergraduation and a couple of postgraduates (as seen in Table 1)

It was interesting to note that day scholars and those staying in hostels were almost uniformly distributed in the study as 55.7% students resided in hostel and the remaining 44.3% students were day scholars. (as in figure 1) Majority of them (70.2%) of them felt that they could manage their studies better by residing in hostel rather than staying at home.

Surprisingly eventhough the number of students getting first class and second class grades have increased during the time of lockdown when compared to before, the distinction candidates have reduced during the period of lockdown (as in table 2) and it is quite evident when 84.2 % of the students opined that they felt they need to get back to in room classes and the atmosphere of college to acquire better grades.

Staying in either home or in hostel, both comes with its own pros and cons. While good food along with parental guidance and extra helping hand was considered as few of the advantages for staying in home (as in table 3), staying in hostel was considered advantageous to enjoy independence, for combined studies and to access accessory study materials from the library. (as in table 4) Students have come to cope with disadvantages of doing household chores, visits of relatives frequently and the urge to drift into

watching television and spending extra time for entertainment purposes when at home(as in figure 2) while hostelites feel lack of availability of balanced diet along with frequent distractions by friends are something to cope to(as in figure 3)

Furthermore 89.6% students agree to the fact that lockdown has changed their method/approach of studying more to do with the 65% students who felt that they were not able to imbibe the basic concepts of subject matter taught in online mode.69% students reasserted the fact that lack of teacher-student relationship in the campus was the prime reason for low grades during lockdown.

To add to it 74.6% students felt that its highly strenuous to sit for long hours in front of e-gadgets to obtain knowledge and in the process 81.2% students felt that they got addicted to internet.College life is never complete without due socialisation process taking place between exchange of friends and their camaraderie. 63.7% students are affected psychologically making them insecure without proper companionship in college due to lockdown.

Last but not the least the very own tedious process of e-learning has made 79.2% students lethargic and making 84% students feel the need to come back to college to resume normal in-room classes.

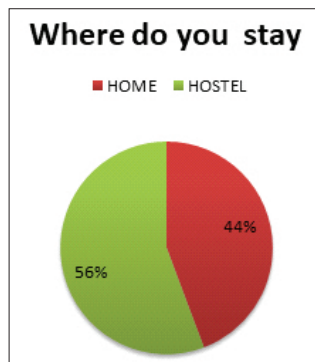


Figure 1: Indicates The Place of Stay of the Students Before Lockdown While Pursuing Medical Course

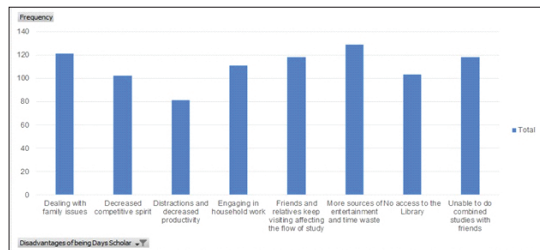


Figure 2: Indicates the Disadvantages of Staying in Home For Studying

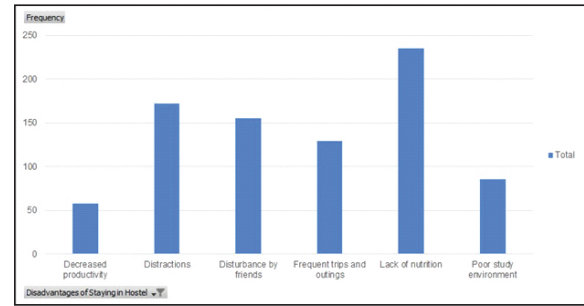


Figure 3: Indicates the Disadvantages of Staying in Hostel to Study

Table No 1: Distribution of the year of study of study participants

Year of study	Frequency	Percent
1st year MBBS	115	29.3
2nd year MBBS	79	20.1
3rd year MBBS	146	37.2
4th year MBBS	41	10.4
Internship	10	2.5
Postgraduate	2	0.5
Total	393	100.0

Table No 2: The average marks obtained before and during lockdown by the students

	Average percentage obtained in exam	
	Academic year 2018-19 -n(%)	Academic year 2019-20-n(%)
0-25%	5(1.3)	4(1.0)
25-50%	1(0.3)	6(1.5)
50-60%	39(9.9)	41(10.4)
60-70%	163(41.5)	169(43.0)
70-80%	69(17.6)	88(22.4)
80-90%	116(29.5)	85(21.6)
Total	393(100)	393(100)

Table No. 3: Advantages of staying at home to study as felt by the participants

Advantages of staying at home	Frequency(n)	Percentage(%)
Better study environment	83	10
Friends and siblings help	56	6
Good food	165	19
More comfort	121	10

Conti..Table No. 3: Advantages of staying at home to study as felt by the participants

Advantages of staying at home	Frequency(n)	Percentage(%)
More disciplined life	105	12
Needn't do all the basic things on your own-extra helping hands at home	121	14
Parental guidance	123	14
Reduced distraction and increased productivity	90	10

Table No. 4: The advantages of staying in hostel to study

Advantages of staying in hostel to study	Frequency(n)	Percentage(%)
Access to library	213	17
Combined studies	234	18
Increased productivity	180	14
Independence	245	19
More competitive spirit	221	17
More focus	188	15

Limitations

There might be recall bias in counting the grade or percentage of marks obtained before the lockdown. Students might also find it odd to openly disclose their percentage as part of a study. Also the time period of the study is of small duration for a study for public mental health importance concerning medical education in the crisis present today. A study of extended duration with retrospective prospective cohort can be a better modality.

Recommendations

It is highly recommended to carry forward with the study on a pan Indian scale with a cohort study design so as to evaluate the conditions and resources in medical education at the national level in the present crisis and to do the needful in the near future so as to

minimise the adverse effects of e-learning for medical education with impending third wave of Covid.

Source of fund : self

Ethical clearance: Taken from Institute Ethics Committee, KIMS HUBLI

Conflict of interest: nil

Conclusion: Even though the number of students gaining first class and second class marks have increased during the period of lockdown, the number of students securing distinction has considerably fallen. Many felt that their reading is far better when at hostel and in the presence of companions in the college campus and with the teacher-student relationship around with in room classes. As a matter of fact majority of them wanted to come back to campus as soon as possible and resume normal in-room classes.

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