

Transition from Conventional Teaching to Remote Setting in Health Education

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Dear Editor,

The global pandemic has introduced uncertainty in almost all aspects of society; similarly it has caused a drastic transformation in the education field. The way student's learn and the way knowledge is being delivered to them has all changed, as a result, education has been affected dramatically.¹

Though this mode of online teaching results in healthy active interactions between students and their instructors contributing to critical thinking, problem solving attitude and hence better understanding of topics. The main advantage of this kind of hybrid learning is that students become self-directed learners by high quality learning on their own irrespective of time. They are taking notes by their own and trying to get maximum benefits from this opportunity. With the distinctive rise of e-learning, everyone is striving to learn the technological transformation as to learn more efficiently in remote setting. On the other hand the slow learners have to work hard to understand the content which was available virtually. Furthermore despite of continuous access to presentations, course objectives, and recorded class debates round the clock, relatively weak student become more negligent towards attending and participating in remote setting.^{2,3}

When we talk about online classes and online assessment, we must consider those students who are unable to make it due to unforeseeable circumstances such as absence of technologies, access to internet in remote areas of Pakistan financial and economic reasons.^{4,5} This is a notable issue in rural neighborhoods or households where daily wages or monthly income is not enough to make ends meet. Besides this everyone is well aware of third world problems where there is lack of electricity, load-shedding even in urban areas, these situations are not in anyone's control. Thereby online education is a great challenge.

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Though, technology has made educational process available at door steps during pandemic. In this regard, training of faculties and students had played significant role to make it more user friendly. It should not be forgotten that senior faculties who were not familiar with these educational innovations prior to pandemic, worked really hard to become well versed with latest gadgets as to deliver teaching effectively. To deliver the education in hybrid mode, it is utmost important to realize that clinical part of the curriculum which cannot be instructed in remote setting such as procedures being performed in real patient settings.³

In a nut-shell transition from conventional teaching method to online teaching has brought immense challenges for both teachers and students, each has its own pros and cons as one size does not fits all. We should not ignore the importance of clinical content which can only be delivered face to face. As undergraduate curriculum make today's learners to tomorrow's doctor. Consistent evaluation and continuous amendment is significant to make the remote teaching more effective in every aspect of curriculum.

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Hajra Asghar: Substantial contributions to the conception
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