

# Questionnaire Survey: An Evaluation of Lectures in Physiology by Residents of Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore. Retain them but with a change!

A MOHSIN I HUSSAIN S H NADEEM

Department of Medicine, K.E. Medical College/Mayo Hospital, Lahore  
Correspondence to Dr. Aftab Mohsin, Associate Professor Medicine

Lectures are a useful tool of teaching, teachers increasingly complain about lack of interest amongst students during lectures and strongly doubt their usefulness. A questionnaire survey was carried out amongst the students of Allama Iqbal medical college Lahore, 30 questions were asked and they related to lecture theatre facilities, teaching methodology, curriculum, conduct of students and teachers, language used and training of teachers. 100 students responded to 30 statements by ticking agree or disagree, complete confidentiality was maintained. 92 were satisfied with lecture theatre facilities, 87% agreed that curriculum should change and all 100% wanted greater share of applied physiology. 40% considered English language to be a barrier to effective learning. 100% agreed that the teachers were adequately trained to deliver lectures. 95% agreed that behavior of teacher was conducive to learning. 100% disagreed with the statement that lectures should be completely abandoned and 100% wanted a change in methodology. We conclude that students want to retain the lectures but opine for a change in methodology and curriculum.

**Key words** Medical education, physiology, lectures

Medical education is stagnant and requires change, not only in the curricula but also in the methodology<sup>1</sup>. Lectures are a conventional and probably the oldest tool of teaching and has seen highs and lows as far as its popularity is concerned, lectures are retained as a major tool of teaching in basic medical sciences<sup>2</sup>. Two hundred hours out of a total of 600 hours in physiology are devoted to lectures<sup>3</sup>, it is conventional amongst any gathering of teachers to hear that the lectures were useless and may well be abandoned, and students were not interested in lectures and they would be happier if other methods like small group discussion were used instead of lectures.

An effort to evaluate the student/ learner point of view was made by first year residents at Jinnah hospital Lahore, the reason to choose residents was to evaluate the curriculum as well and to find the usefulness of what is being taught. It was a questionnaire survey, respondents were urged to be honest and no names were required and the result is published here.

## Objective:

To evaluate the lectures in physiology regarding the facilities in lecture theatres, language, training of lecturer, curriculum, teaching methodology and behavior of teacher and taught by a questionnaire.

## Study design:

Retrospective analysis of lectures in physiology.

## Subjects:

100 residents of Jinnah hospital Lahore, all graduates of Allama Iqbal medical college (AIMC) Lahore, 60 females and 40 males, mean age 25 years.

## Questionnaire and Methodology:

A questionnaire with 30 questions related to lectures in physiology were asked, these were simple true or false statements with opportunity for the respondents to tick the response by ticking agree or disagree written below each statement.

The questions related to lecture theatre facilities, conduct of teacher and students, language, curriculum, teaching methodology and usefulness of present system.

Following are seven sample questions from six different areas or segments from whom these 30 questions arose:

### Facilities: (4 questions)

1. The audiovisual facilities in lecture theatres are adequate.

Agree Disagree

### Language: (2 questions)

2. English language is a barrier to effective learning.

Agree Disagree

### Training (1 question)

3. Teachers are adequately trained to deliver the lectures.

Agree Disagree

### Curriculum (5 questions)

4. The present curriculum being taught relates/ addresses the day-to-day needs of a doctor working in hospital.

Agree Disagree

### Methodology: (15 Questions)

5. Lectures should be completely abandoned.

Agree Disagree

6. There is integration of teaching amongst basic sciences department.

Agree Disagree

### Conduct: (3 questions)

7. The behavior of the lecturer is generally conducive to learning.

Agree Disagree



## Questionnaire Survey

### Main Out-come Measures:

The intention was to evaluate the opinion of the learners or students regarding the present system of lectures in physiology.

The questions related to 1. Instructional strategy or teaching methodology, 2 .Curriculum or learning objectives being taught. 3. Facilities in the lecture theatres. 4. Conduct or behavior. 5. Language used and 6. Training of lecturers.

### Results:

*The response of 100 students is given below:*

Ninety two agreed that lecture theatre facilities and audiovisual facilities were adequate, 100 (all) believed that the curriculum or syllabus was outdated and did not relate to the requirements of a General practitioners or hospital doctor, only 13 said that the present curriculum should remain the same, 100 agreed that applied physiology should constitute larger proportion of curriculum.

Forty thought that the English language was a barrier to effective learning and 85 agreed that the quality of English language used by teachers was good.

Eighty nine believed that audiovisual aids made the lectures more interesting and 87 said that it made them easy to remember. 100 (all) agreed that teachers were adequately trained, 100 (all) agreed that the attendance was not poor in the class.

Eighty five disagreed that the behavior of students was conducive to learning and 95 agreed that the behavior of the lecturer was conducive to learning.

One hundred (all) disagreed with the statement that the lectures should be completely abandoned, and 97 agreed with the duration of each lecture i.e.; 1 hour is adequate and total duration of lecture i.e. 200 hours out of 600 hours should remain the same, but suggested that teaching methodology should change with active participation ensured by lecturer 100%, by stopping dictation of notes 100%, by integrating teaching between basic and clinical sciences 100% and by giving proper feed back to the students 100%.

### Discussion:

The response to this questionnaire survey highlights the importance of learner's opinion<sup>4</sup> in making any decision regarding any of the learning activity or for that matter in

relation to the curriculum and evaluation.

The responses highlight the need for change in instructional strategy as well as need to change curriculum. It also emphasizes the need to integrate the teaching, and integration should be both amongst basic and clinical sciences.

A surprising fact appeared about the way students wish to protect the lectures and all said that the lectures should not be abandoned<sup>5</sup> and this belief or idea is gaining popularity amongst the teachers that lectures are useless must be addressed scientifically with more data gathered at local level and every effort done to improve this extremely important and oldest tool of learning.

Students of Allama Iqbal medical college were generally satisfied with the facilities in the lecture theaters (92 %), but the same survey when carried out bore strikingly dissimilar result only as far as the lecture theatre facilities are concerned, only 37% at KEMC King Edward medical college were satisfied with the theatre and audiovisual facilities.

There was a contradiction in the results because 100% agreed that the applied physiology should constitute larger proportion of the curriculum but 13 said that the curriculum should remain the same, on one hand they have suggested a change and on other a few have recommended that there should be no change. The reasons could be many, like problem with understanding of question, the ambiguity of the term curriculum, it is also considered fashionable to speak about applied aspect of the subject etc, etc. and hence the 100% response.

According to this survey students wish to retain lectures, and are satisfied with their duration but want improvement in methodology and changes in curriculum.

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