



## Research Article

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### SEMINARS AS A TEACHING TOOL OF ANATOMY: THE STUDENT'S PERCEPTION

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#### ABSTRACT

The present study was aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of seminars through perception of students to facilitate the learning process in Anatomy. This cross-sectional study was undertaken among 168 male and female MBBS students studying at Krishna institute of Medical Sciences, Malkapur, Karad. Questionnaire containing ten questions was designed and administered to students. Each question was to be given a score between 1 to 5, where 1 was strongly disagreeing and 5 was strongly agree. The collected data were thoroughly screened and entered into excel spreadsheets and analysis was carried out using SPSS 20.0 for windows. We conclude that seminars in Anatomy were more beneficial to medical students along with theory and practical classes. Hence we recommend organizing regular seminars by students in Anatomy and also recommend including seminars in the curriculum. We also recommend multi centre studies in this regard.

**Key words:** Seminars, Anatomy, Feedback, Perceptions.

#### INTRODUCTION

Medical students faces difficulty upon entry in the medical school as they are over burdened with the academics.<sup>1</sup> Hence it is essential to assess effectiveness of different teaching methods and techniques to find the most effective method that helps the students to cope up with the academic stress.<sup>2</sup> Seminar is an effective tool to enhance the students self earning skills. In seminars, a small group of students were engaged in advanced study under a member of faculty and meeting regularly to exchange information by discussions. So students will take active role in seminars. In order to help students acquire self-learning skills and to enhance their learning experiences, the Department of Anatomy has organized student seminars in the subject of Anatomy. Senior faculty from the department chose volunteers and gave them specific topics and subtopics to study and prepare presentations. The present study was aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of seminars through perception of students to facilitate the learning process in Anatomy.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

##### Participants

This cross-sectional study was undertaken among 168 male and female MBBS students studying at Krishna institute of Medical Sciences, Malkapur, Karad. The purpose and importance of the study was explained to students before obtaining the informed consent. After clarifying all doubts of the students and assuring confidentiality, we have obtained written, voluntary informed consent from all students. A series of seminars in the subject of Anatomy were conducted Topics were allotted to the students randomly by lottery. Allotted topics included those which were

already covered during theory lectures. All the faculty members were made available and approachable to students to help them in preparing for seminars. They have given opportunity to practice the seminar in front of the available faculty members. This helped them to overcome stage fear. After the actual presentation, A standard questionnaire was administered to the students to assess their perceptions about the seminars.

##### Questionnaire

Questionnaire containing ten questions (table no 1) was designed and administered to students. The questionnaire was designed with 5 point scale, where 1 was strongly disagreeing and 5 was strongly agree. The responses were carefully tabulated.

##### Statistical analysis

The collected data were thoroughly screened and entered into excel spreadsheets and analysis was carried out using SPSS 20.0 for windows.

##### Ethical consideration

Necessary permission was granted from the Head of the Department and Head of the Institution and from institutional human ethical committee to conduct the study.

##### Seminar feedback 2014-16

Please give your opinion about the following statements pertaining to the seminars which were conducted in the department of Anatomy. Your responses shall be kept completely confidential and will in no way be associated with your name and shall be used only for purpose of educational research.

Table 1: Questionnaire administered in the study

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Seminars are an effective way to study Anatomy.					
Seminars have motivated you towards self study.					
Participating in Seminars improves communication skills.					
Participating in Seminars enhances teamwork amongst students					
Participating in Seminars helps you to develop time management skills.					
Participating in seminars has increased your problem solving skills					
Participating in seminars has helped you to use audiovisual aids more effectively.					
Seminars increase student teacher interaction.					
Seminars should be continued in the forthcoming years.					
Seminars should be incorporated in the university curriculum					

Has participating in seminars benefitted you? . . . . Yes/No . . . .  
 Are you satisfied with the guidance you received from your seminar in charge teacher? Yes/No

teamwork amongst students. Majority of the students strongly agreed that participating in Seminars helps you to develop time management skills. Majority of students somewhat agreed that participating in seminars has increased your problem solving skills. Majority of students strongly agreed that participating in seminars has helped you to use audiovisual aids more effectively. Majority of students strongly agreed that Seminars will increase student teacher interaction and Seminars should be continued in the forthcoming years. Further they strongly agreed that Seminars should be incorporated in the university curriculum (Figure 1).

**RESULTS**

Majority of the students strongly agreed that Seminars are an effective way to study Anatomy. Majority of the students strongly agreed that Seminars have motivated you towards self study. Majority of the students strongly agreed that Participating in Seminars improves communication skills. Majority of the students strongly agreed that participating in Seminars enhances

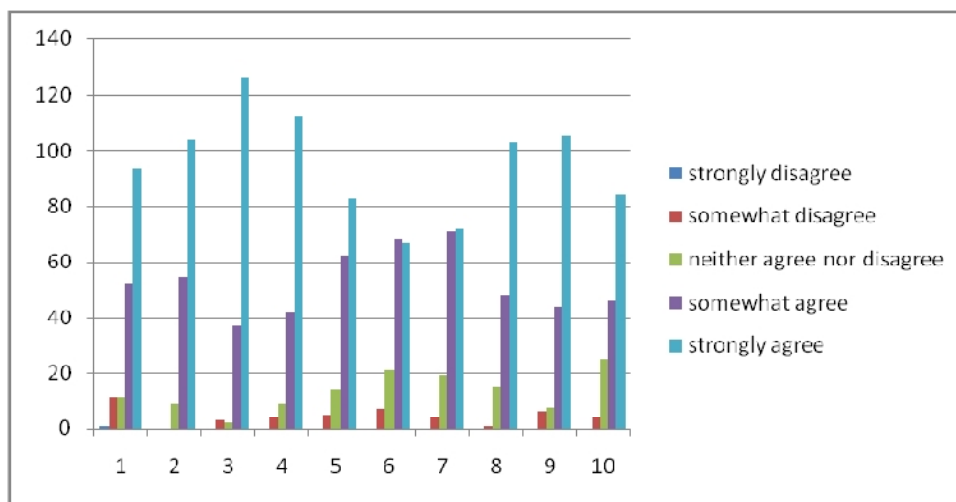


Figure 1: Students perception about anatomy seminars (X-axis represents question numbers and Y-axis represents number of students). Data was presented as frequencies

Table 2: Perception of students (Data was presented as frequency and percentage)

Question	Yes	No
Has participating in seminars benefitted you?	158 (94.04)	10 (5.95)
Are you satisfied with the guidance you received from your seminar in charge teacher?	155 (92.2)	13 (7.73)

**DISCUSSION**

While preparing for the seminars students refers all concerned information available in online and offline, which makes them more perfect in that topic of seminar. After their preparation, they are encouraged to discuss with staff and the students, which helps to enhance the knowledge of others and also to raise effective discussions. The communication skills will be

improved due to seminars.<sup>3</sup> as the seminars increase interaction of students with teachers, it gives an opportunity to informal discussion on current departmental issues and matters between students and staff which could not be raised in any other departmental forum.<sup>4</sup> Earlier studies reported that, conducting student seminars will provide an opportunity for students to aware of difficulties and solutions while taking a class or lecture, which helps them to become good teachers in future.<sup>5</sup>

Students enjoy group discussions and seminars will provide a platform for this. Hence this type of learning process will increase the thinking process of students. Organizing regular student seminars is one step towards relieving them from becoming totally dependent on their ability to memorize.<sup>6</sup> Our study further supports the views expressed by earlier studies as most of the students responded positively to organizing regular seminars. A well organized curriculum helps the students as a road map to achieve success.<sup>7</sup> We recommend including seminars in curriculum for better achievement of students.

#### Limitations

The present study was conducted in only one medical college. Hence generalizations can't be made.

#### CONCLUSION

We conclude that seminars in Anatomy were more beneficial to medical students along with theory and practical classes. This had given a wide range of knowledge about the topics and special interest because of their active participation. Hence we recommend organizing regular seminars by students in Anatomy and also recommend including seminars in the curriculum. We also recommend multi centre studies in this regard.

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