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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### CLASSROOM TEACHING IS BETTER THAN ONLINE TEACHING - A SURVEY REPORT IN MEDICAL COLLEGE MANDI H.P

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#### Abstract

Around the world even the developed countries are stunned by this pandemic causing extensive pain. India is no exception and the Government has imposed a nation – wide lockdown to help restrain the virus. At the onset of the pandemic, medical students in the midst of the session were suddenly pulled out of their studies and same for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year's medical students clerkships were abruptly pulled out of clinical care. Faculty scrambled to adjust learning experiences by switching to online cases and remote activities to prepare students for required exams and to build clinical reasoning skills without the face to face patient encounter. In such a situation, where educational institutions across the country have been closed, both teaching and learning have affected millions of students. As per the orders from the Government, Universities the colleges have started offering online classes to students. The objective of these online classes is to make sure that students do not lose out on any teaching and learning activities during the lockdown. This paper examines the impact of lockdown on students of medical institutions, the challenges they are facing due to lockdown.

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#### Introduction:-

Digital medical education is in its infancy in the geographically challenging and mountainous state of Himachal Pradesh. To limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, educational institutions in Himachal Pradesh have remained closed for more than a month and medical colleges are no exception. Recently, however, Himachal Pradesh Govt. and H P University has instructed its affiliated institutions to run online classes for students so that there would be no delay (lag) in the academic calendar.

Six Medical Colleges (Five Govt. & one Private) affiliated to the H P University are scattered all over Himachal Pradesh, enrolling 100 to 150 students in each year for the bachelor's degree (MBBS). Each student learns about 5 years in different fields of medicine until they graduate, post graduate studies continue for the next 3 years, before they can become specialists.

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In order to combat the spread of coronavirus, various webinars are conducted, with the help of the IT department of each medical college to educate medical professionals. Online teaching for medical undergraduates would be an innovative step in medical colleges for engagement with locked down students<sup>1</sup>. Many challenges were faced for both students and teachers during online teaching. Some popular web portals like Zoom and Skype are being used for teaching and learning purposes<sup>2</sup>.

### Data And Methods:-

This is an online survey based study of the 353 undergraduate Medical students and BSc.

Nursing students from Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College Mandi at Nerchowk Himachal Pradesh.

### Data Collection And Procedure:

An online survey was conducted from 16 September to 21 September 2020. A structural questionnaire link using 'Google form' was sent to students through whatsapp. Consent was taken before participation in the online survey. A total 353 students provide complete information regarding the survey.

### Results:-

For this study, 353 MBBS and Nursing students from Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College Mandi at Nerchowk was included. There were male 95(26.8%) and female 246 (69.5%) and prefer not to say were 12 (3.7%). Sex distribution of subjects based on gender wise distribution in Himachal Pradesh is shown in **Figure 1**.

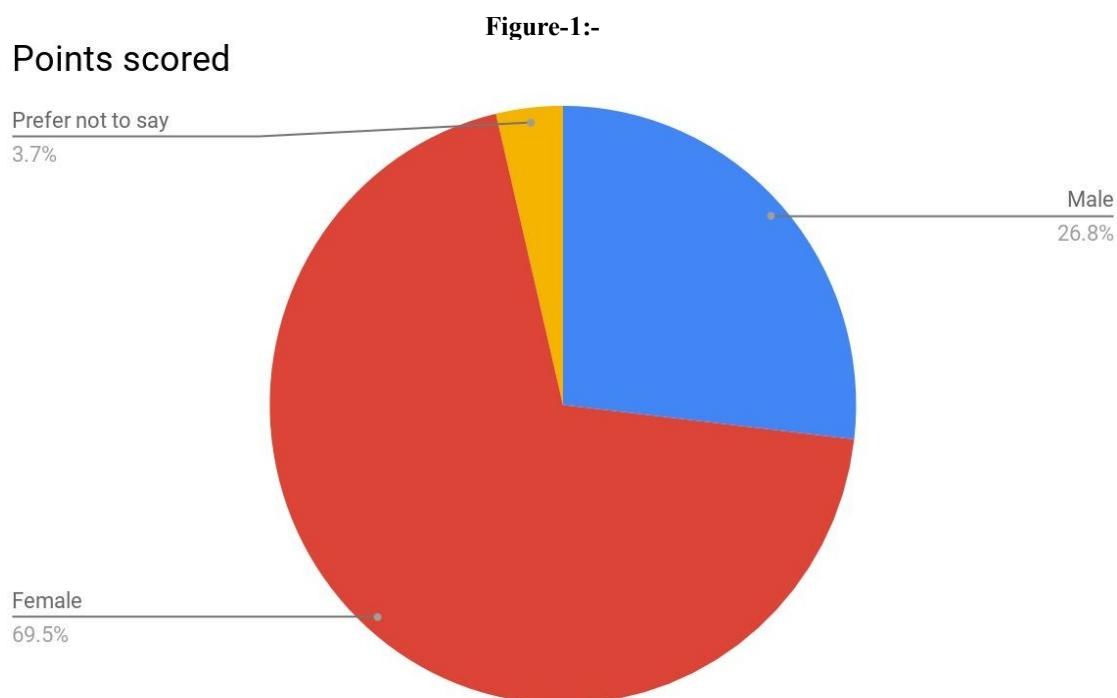
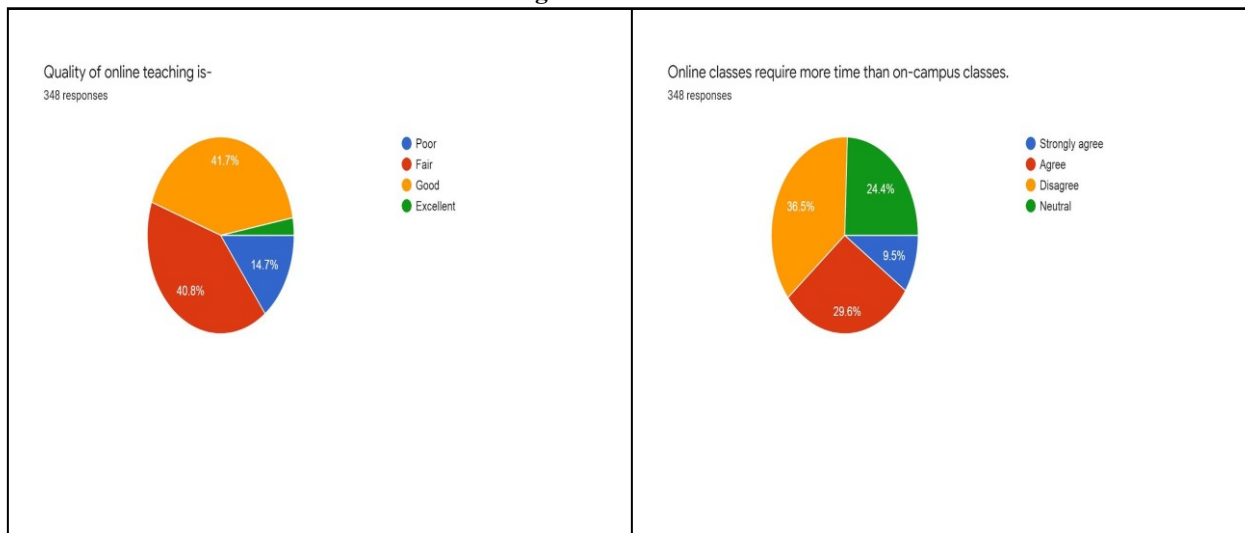


Figure- 2 and 3:

**Observation:-**

The survey shows that 99% of the students have adopted the online education system. It is observed that classes of 15 to 20 hours a week are provided to all the students, 74% of students actually attend lectures between 10-15 hours in a week and rest up to 20 hours. 90% students use mobile and rest laptops. 56% are comfortable while attending lectures from home. In this survey, different types of questions were asked regarding online teaching, in which 85% students disagree with the statement that online teaching is better than traditional teaching. The online lectures given by the teachers were very helpful for the students and they were evaluated during the online classes and teachers were easily approachable for their queries. The survey shows that 43% students feel online teaching effective to overcome the scare of COVID-19, only 19% say no. (Table-1 & 2)

When asked for quality of online teaching and online classes required more time than on- campus classes, results shown in Figure -2 &3

Table-1:-

Question	Answer		Total
Q. Has your institution started online teaching during lockdown?	Yes	349	353
	No	04	
Q. For how many hours online teaching per week?	15 hours	211	353
	18 hours	44	
	20 hours	25	
	22 hours	17	
	24 hours	56	
Q. For how many hours / week, Do you actually attend the lectures?	10 hours	83	353
	13hours	42	
	15 hours	118	
	18 hours	29	
	20 hours	26	
	24 hours	55	
Q. Choice of gadget / device.	Mobile	345	353
	Computer	04	
	Laptop	00	
	Tablet	03	
	Others	01	
Q. Is it Comfortable for you to	Yes	199	353

attend lectures from home?	No	154	
Q. Online teaching is better than traditional teaching.	Strongly agree	20	353
	Agree	36	
	Disagree	176	
	Strongly Disagree	121	
Q. How much helpful are the online lectures delivered to you by your faculty?	Extremely helpful	46	353
	Somewhat Helpful	207	
	Not so helpful	78	
	Not at all helpful	22	
Q. A part from theory lectures, do you follow any other form of online teaching?	Yes	160	353
	No	193	
Q. How often are you evaluated during the online class?	Always	62	353
	Very often	184	
	Rarely	92	
	Never	15	

Table-2:-

Question	Answer		Total
Q. What is your response to online assessment?	Satisfactory	192	353
	Not Satisfactory	161	
Q. Do you ask teachers for any queries?	Yes	207	353
	No	146	
Q. Are teachers approachable for your queries?	Yes	210	353
	No	43	
Q. Is online teaching effective to overcome the scared of COVID-19?	Yes	150	353
	No	63	
	May be	140	
Q. Beside subject teaching, do you ask about your general well being or your concern about COVID-19?	Yes	222	353
	No	131	
Q. Is there any advantage of online teaching?	Yes	151	353
	No	76	
	May be	126	
Q. Online teaching provides the right amount of theoretical and practical experience. Do you agree?	Strongly agree	14	353
	Agree	34	
	Disagree	233	
	Neutral	72	
Q. I believe that high quality learning without face to face interaction can take place.	Yes	118	353
	No	235	
Q. Online teaching environment disrupts learning. Do you agree?	Strongly agree	86	353
	Agree	209	
	Disagree	58	
Q. Online classes make it easier to procrastinate study.	Always	117	353
	Rarely	236	
Q. Online classes offer flexibility. Do you agree?	Yes	238	353
	No	115	
Q. Online learning teaches you to be self - disciplined.	Strongly agree	23	353
	Agree	121	
	Disagree	146	
	Neutral	63	
Q. Online classes offer more individual attention.	Strongly agree	28	353
	Agree	105	

	Disagree	220	
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Beside subject teaching they were also asked about their general well being by the teachers. When asked about the advantage of online teaching 43% said yes, 22% said no and rest were confused. The study shows 84% of students agree with the statement that an online teaching environment disrupts effective learning. When asked about whether online teaching helped them to be self disciplined the response was comparable.

It is also revealed in the survey that teachers have adopted this system keeping in mind the future and precious time of their students and have tried to give their best but practical and clinical knowledge is not possible through online teaching. Maximum students believe that high quality learning without face to face interaction can take place and the quality of online teaching was fair.

### Discussion:-

According to our study, the missing element in the effectiveness of online study was clinical practice. Nothing can replace seeing a patient because clinical experience and human interaction are extremely important for the practice of medicine<sup>3</sup>.

Online education is considered to have a broader reach than traditional classroom teaching<sup>4</sup>. No doubt that online teaching has broader reach than traditional teaching but it can't create the same atmosphere as traditional teaching, nor take the place of classroom teaching.

During lockdown, with the closure of universities and Medical Colleges, such physical and social interaction has been restricted resulting in stress. As far anxiety is concerned, students, researchers and health professionals reported a moderate level of anxiety<sup>5</sup>. Further in the current study, it is evident that depression was not reported for students and online teaching was effective to overcome the scare of COVID-19 and online lectures delivered to them by faculty were much helpful.

Flexibility is one of the most often cited advantages of online learning, according to students. Study reported that flexibility was one of the most important factors in choosing to learn online, even though most of the students reported that they could have taken a campus-based learning<sup>6</sup>. In the present study, maximum students appreciate the flexibility that online courses offered for their own time management. They adore the freedom of doing their work when and where they wanted.

The similar study was conducted by various authors and found positive thought among students about e-learning. There is also a great interest and increasing use of these e-learning programmes for academic use. But, many of them do not wish for e-learning. They only like virtual Learning like face to face learning or traditional learning<sup>7</sup>.

At the end, our system of Medical Colleges will have undergone profound and unanticipated changes. It's unknown how long and how these students will perform clinically in residency. The summer months will be used for makeup time for rising 4th year students and provide preclinical skills building time for rising 3rd year students. Therefore, the clerical work will be shortened to accommodate a short academic year<sup>8</sup>.

### Conclusion:-

The present study, teachers have adopted this system keeping in mind the future and precious time of their students and have tried to give their best but practical and clinical knowledge is not possible through online teaching. Maximum students believe that high quality learning without face to face interaction can take place and the quality of online teaching was fair.

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