

# Impact of Modern Learning Methods on Professional Education

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The learning methods in health sectors are now facing a great challenge. The study is conducted to determine the effectiveness of new learning methodologies including workshops, seminars and symposiums on the building of students' professional skills.

**Methodology:** A simple questionnaire comprised of closed ended questions was given to four hundred students of different medical universities focusing basic health sciences departments like medical, dentistry and pharmacy.

**Findings:** It was found that medical universities were arranging all above mentioned programs on regular basis and students were used to participate in such engagements. Majority of students (52.4%) were in favor of workshops, they thought workshop as the most beneficial technique to improve their weaknesses. While the likeness to seminars and symposiums were nearly on equal basis. Students were strongly agreed (66.2%) that these ways provide current knowledge of the profession than typical teacher centered lectures.

**Conclusions:** Therefore, it is concluded that all professional universities should organize maximum of such advanced activities to produce students with better professional attitudes.

**KEY WORDS:** *Advanced Teaching Methodology, Workshops, Seminars, Symposiums, Educational System.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The field professional education is progressing day by day so it would not be wrong to say that 50% of today's knowledge will be modified in upcoming years. This alteration makes the health professional responsible to update themselves with the current new knowledge using new technological approaches. The modern education system is therefore influenced more in training youngsters and helps them to keep according as well as enable them to adapt changes in this endeavor.<sup>1</sup>

The modern technique of education in worldwide medical or professional universities involves direct lecture or traditional lecture method, team work, extra class, computer-based learning, visiting companies' field, workshop, seminar and symposium.<sup>2</sup>

Although lecture based information or teachers centered information is traditional method but still considered as an effective tool to deliver basic knowledge but it's a need of time to indulge specialized seminar, workshop, and visit to educational fields or related industries just to promote learning skill. Barr and Tagg 1995 quoted "Teaching to learning paradigm shift" This shift refers to emphasis more on learning and making student as self-learner rather focusing on teaching practices.<sup>3</sup> This however wrenches the attention of faculty towards advancement in education and compels them to rethink their teaching practices applying new strategies and designing the course according to the need of students.<sup>4,5</sup>

The present study is aimed to determine the attitude of students to such advanced

approaches including seminars, workshops, and symposiums in building their professional skills.

## METHODOLOGY

A short survey based study was conducted from July 2012 to November 2012; on undergraduate students of different medical universities of Karachi, Pakistan. The aim of study is to determine the influence of advanced learning methods (workshops, seminars, and symposiums) on the grooming of undergraduates belonging to different professions. A simple questionnaire was designed, based on 10 close ended questions. All MBBS, BDS and Pharm. D undergraduates were included in the study while alumni's and post graduate students were excluded from the study. Four hundred individuals were participated in the survey, the participation were entirely on volunteer basis. They all were assured that the collected data shall not be used for any other purpose, and their identity will never be disclosed anywhere.

## RESULTS

Through our survey we received positive feedback towards active learning. At least once a year any of these programs (seminar, workshop, and symposium) are organized by their institutes and student were participated without affecting their curriculum studies. About 66.2% of respondents were strongly agreed that such active learning methods are effective and listener could grasp more knowledge from subject expertise. The bridge is created between them which broaden listener vision, and facilitating them to excel better professionally. Various other responses are given in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Students' Interest towards advanced approaches

PARAMETERS	VARIABLES	NUMBERS	PERCENTAGE (%)
INTEREST IN ACTIVITY	WORKSHOP	190	52.4
	SYMPOSIUM	84	23
	SEMINAR	88	24
LEARNING FROM ABOVE ACTIVITIES	EXCELLENT	63	17.4
	GOOD	177	48.8
	AVERAGE	109	30.1
	POOR	13	3.5
PARTICIPATION IN	EXTERNAL *	47	12.9

PROGRAM	INTERNAL**	185	51.10
	BOTH	130	35.9

\* Outside from the institute

\*\* Inside the institute

Figure 1: Significance In Building Professional Skills

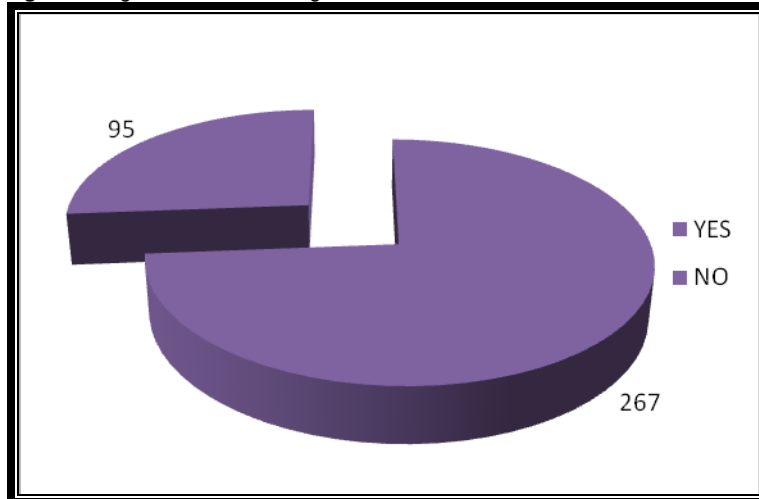
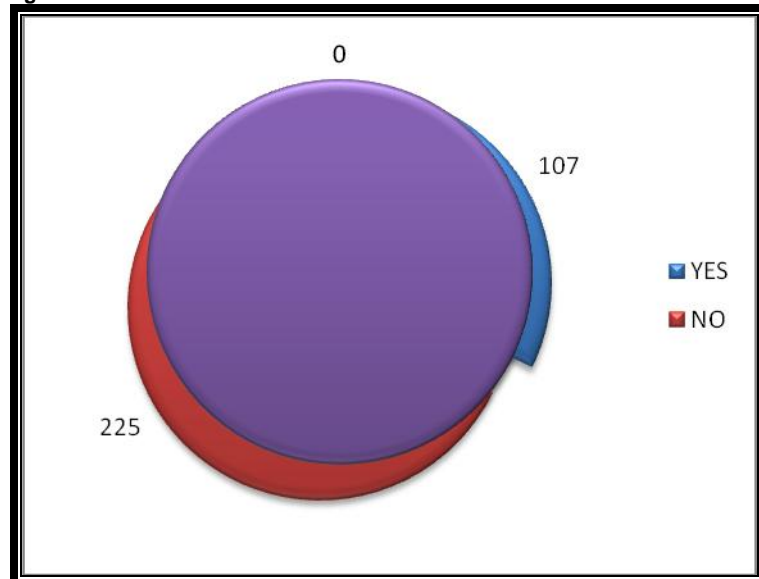


Figure 2: Extra Load On Studies



### DISCUSSION

Medical profession is a respectable and valuable field all over the world. Individuals belonging to health care professions should update their knowledge to serve better for community. The curriculum provided to medical universities are usually broad, vast and to some extent dry or not enjoyable for students. It is well documented teaching methods may vary with

the course objectives and if a course provides the students with proper knowledge utilization skills and necessary abilities the students will be able to adapt to the difficulties of a changing environment.<sup>6</sup> The present study is designed to know the opinion of undergraduates of basic health sciences on the incorporation of advanced approaches like workshops and seminars. It is evaluated that although majority of medical colleges still following traditional

lecture based learning but they have also been organizing different activities for students to provide recent and current knowledge about the field. As far as medical students were surveyed, out of 400 there were only few students who were not in favor of such activities because they thought them as an additional load on the shoulders of students. Respondents were mentioned that they gave preference to workshop in comparison of seminars. The reasons of likeness are; they are highly interactive and provide practical implementation of any problem.

It's a fact that properly designed workshops and seminars are time and cost efficient modes for active involvement as compared to individual training activities and also provide path for the interaction among listeners and speakers.<sup>7</sup> Modern education is a revolution against the bookishness of the past since it is activity centered.<sup>8</sup> [Usually students were used to participate in activities organized by their own colleges. But they also willingly attended such sort of programs even outside the college, depending on their interest or relevancy to their fields. They were agreed that they do not overburdened by these (Figure 2) as active learning is always enjoyable and allow them to ask questions freely. These learning activities are not a monologue but a dialogue between the listener and speaker. Students thought that advanced learning approaches are helpful in building their skills since by participation in such programs they professionally groom themselves (Figure 1). The content and skill of speaker provided are essential elements for an undergraduate to enhance their knowledge<sup>9</sup> as one of the past "Researches indicates that students are the most qualified sources to report on the extent to which the learning experience was productive, informative, satisfying, or worthwhile".<sup>10</sup> The impact will be reflected once they put their step towards their professional life as these learning method teaches student different norms of professional life which is always helpful for them in future.

### CONCLUSION

Workshop, symposium and seminar are important training tools at undergraduate level. These are efficient and interesting technique of learning and help to enhance professional expertise like self-confidence, sense of

responsibility, communication, decision making and practical skill of students.

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