



Challenges Faced by Final Year Medical Postgraduate Students during Pandemic COVID 19

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the world into a health and economic crisis. Different countries have established different forms of quarantine, interrupting numerous ordinary routines and affecting work, free movement, trade, and, in particular, education. The inability of the examiner to travel during lockdown/ post lockdown discouragement of travel as per advisory, rules out the possibility of the traditional method of the in-person presence of external examiner for evaluation, while a completely new method of only online mode of practical examination may not be advisable or fair as per assessment principles.

Objective: The main objective of the study was to assess the challenges faced by final year medical postgraduate students during Pandemic COVID 19.

Methods and Materials: A Cross-Sectional study conducted among final year medical postgraduate students. An online survey was conducted from April 1st 2021 to April 30th 2021 to collect the information. A structural questionnaire link using 'Google form' was sent to students' through WhatsApp and E-mail. A non-probability technique known as consecutive sampling was used to select the respondents.

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Results: During the study period, 55 medical postgraduate students have included study, 30 students were male and 25 were men, Most of the student from the anesthesia department 14 (28%) and Community Medicine 12 (24%). 39 (70.9%) strongly agreed for their academic activity disturbed due to the COVID pandemic. Among students, 32 (58.2%) percentage students finished their thesis. 39 (70.9%) students strongly disagree for to postpone the final exam.

Conclusion: Students to do their academic activity by side by side during covid duty also and do their research project in the COVID patients. This is COVID pandemic every one suffered in the world, so to understand to cross this period, this is not for single person problem, so medical students to understand to do the duty very well and service to this nation with their safety measure take care their health including mental health..

Keywords: Covid; pandmeic; medical post graduate students.

1. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the world into a health and economic crisis. Different countries have established different forms of quarantine, interrupting numerous ordinary routines and affecting work, free movement, trade, and, in particular, education [1]. Across several nations, measures to limit the spreading of the COVID-19 virus between the older and adolescent population have contributed to the extensive closing of universities, institutions, colleges, and other educational establishments. Since around March 25, 2020, around one hundred and fifty countries had temporarily closed colleges and educational establishments involving better than 80% of the world's population of students [2]. The impact of COVID in medical education is a very important and notifiable one. Medical education is not like other education systems and also medical students faced so many challenges during the COVID pandemic. Shortly after announcing the need for "social distancing" and reducing all face-to-face contact such as teaching and training programs, the immediate impact of COVID19 in the field of medical education was observed quite early due to the significant impact of the pandemic. Particularly final year postgraduate medical students faced so many challenges because they busy in the completion of the dissertation, preparation of final exams, and also duty in the COVID ward including the ICU and some of the students infected also. They are living and doing duty in the stressful situation only, there is no clear cut announcement regarding examination also One relevant question posed to universities was the timely conduct of summative assessment as a part of course completion and certification [3].

Delay of the course completion examination may not be the right solution. The need of the hour is

a positive approach devising an option where the principles of assessment are not compromised and, simultaneously, evaluation can be completed as per the scheduled time while fully abiding by all precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. The inability of the examiner to travel during lockdown/ post lockdown discouragement of travel as per advisory, rules out the possibility of the traditional method of the in-person presence of external examiner for evaluation, while a completely new method of only online mode of practical examination may not be advisable or fair as per assessment principles [4,5].

1.1 Objectives

The main objective of the study was to assess the challenges faced by final-year medical post-graduate students during Pandemic COVID 19.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Study Design

A Cross-Sectional Study was conducted involving 55 final year post-graduate students in medical colleges under tamilnadu, who was treating mild-severe category covid 19 patients. An online survey was conducted among the post-graduate students from 1st april 2021 to april 30th 2021 regarding the challenges faced by them during this pandemic. In view of that a structural questionnaire link using google form was sent to all the participants threw their whatsapp and E-mail. All the collected information was kept confidential. Data collected was then entered in the Microsoft Excel sheet (MS excel 2010). The normality of the data was checked. Data were coded and analyzed in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 software (institutional

licensed). Descriptive analysis for all the variables was expressed in frequency and percentages. Age was expressed in the median. A Chi-square test was done. A P-value of less than 0.05 was considered significant.

3. RESULTS

This study comprised of 55 medical postgraduate students have included study. The median age of 28 years (range 26-35). 30 students were male (54.5%) and 25 were female (45.5%). In study participants most of the student

from the anesthesia department 14 (28%) and followed by Community Medicine 12 (24%) (Fig. 1), In this study, participants were included from different medical colleges, in India who were treating the COVID patients varied from mild to severe category during this pandemic. The majority of the students 47.3% (26) students were in the COVID duty, 25.5% (14) were sometimes COVID duty and 27.3% (15) were not on COVID duty. Associating the duties of postgraduate students from various department shows significant statistically (Table 1).

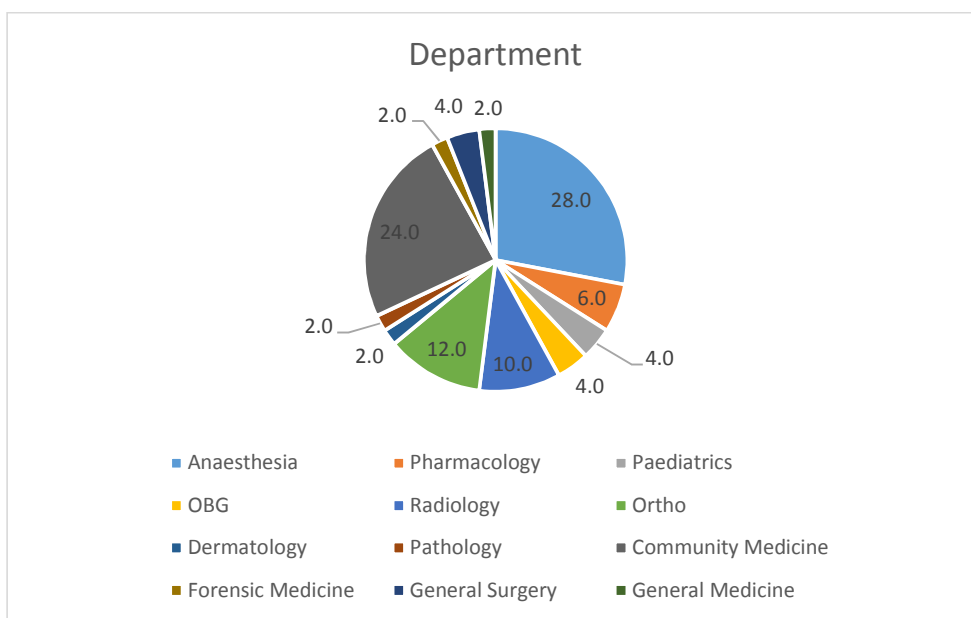


Fig. 1. Pie chart showing student capacity in different departments

Table 1. Association between Department and COVID Duty

Department	Yes	No	Sometimes	P value
Anesthesia	10	2	4	0.028
Pharmacology	2	0	1	
Pediatrics	1	0	1	
OBG	0	2	0	
Radiology	1	3	1	
Ortho	1	1	5	
Dermatology	0	1	0	
Pathology	0	1	0	
Community Medicine	9	4	1	
Forensic Medicine	1	0	0	
General Surgery	0	0	2	
General Medicine	1	0	0	
Total	26	14	15	

Table 2. Status of academic activity

	Yes	No
Have you finished your thesis?	32(58.2%)	23 (41.8%)
Are you finished your oral presentation	35 (63.6%)	20 (36.4%)
Are you finished your poster presentation	39 (70.9%)	16 (29.1%)
Are you finished your publication	32 (58.2%)	23 (41.8%)

In study participants majority of the students, 39 (70.9%) strongly agreed for their academic activity disturbed due to the COVID pandemic followed by 13 (23.6%) students were agreed. It is statistically significant (P=0.024). Among students, 32 (58.2%) percentage students finished their thesis and 23 (41.8%) students not finished their thesis, It is statistically significant (P=0.011) Table 2.

The majority of the students 29 (52.7%) students strongly agree they unable to concentrate on their specialty activity and studies due to COVID and followed by 14 (25.5%) students who were neutral. 15(27.3%) students were infected in the COVID 19 and 20 (36.4%) students were told may be infected as asymptomatic. The majority of the students 39 (70.9) students strongly disagree for to postpone the final exam.

4. DISCUSSION

In this study most of the COVID duty was seen by anesthesia and community medicine department that denotes anesthesia students were posted in the critical care for the management of the COVID patients and Community medicine students plays in the fieldwork for early detection of the cases, awareness program, data collection, so both department important role in the COVID pandemic situation and not only that two departments and also other department students also posted in the COVID duty some of the students indirectly doing the COVID duty like lab work. All medical colleges are treating the COVID patients, in all over India 554 medical colleges are their average bed capacity of 750 beds some medical colleges have an 1100 bed capacity [6]. India has a good infrastructure for a treat the patient at the same time most of the medical college have postgraduate students, so they only posted in the COVID duty for management of the patient and also to guide the medical students including internship doctors that only this study shows most of the postgraduate students posted in COVID duty.

Most of the students agreed for their academic activity disturbed, students probably affected by this COVID pandemic anesthesia students mostly posted in the critical care unit so they less exposure in the operation theatre, like that only some department students periphery posting like super-specialty posting affected ad their exposure in narrow in COVID only. Student's research activity disturbed due to this COVID pandemic planned and already planned IEC approved research project are affected. In this study few of the students only finished their thesis, poster presentation, oral presentation, and publication, this shows student less exposure to research knowledge, will encourage the student to research the COVID patient, and also NMC reduced the sample size for the thesis for the final year medical postgraduate students [7].

Majority of the students were unable to concentrate in their particular specialty department they need more training in their senior resident period for the development of skills. Most of the students nor agree to postpone the examination, because so many students studying away from their native and family members, plan to marry and personal commitment, so students strongly disagree to extend their post-graduate period, need alternative methods to examine incorrect period.

5. CONCLUSION

Students to do their academic activity by side by side during covid duty also and do their research project in the COVID patients and to conduct research methodology courses after completion of post graduate. This is a COVID pandemic every one suffered in the world, so to understand to cross this period, this is not for single person problem, so medical students to understand to do the duty very well and service to this nation with their safety measure take care their health including mental health.. Government and NMC to consider their obligation and fulfill the needs that are the correct awards for them.

LIMITATION

In this study sample size taken 55 was small size only. Because medical post graduate student more than ten thousand all over India. So need elaborate the study with more sample size for better outcome and results.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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