

Colombo Medical Faculty teachers' awareness on their teaching styles during facilitation of PBL and SGD tutorials

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The University of Colombo Faculty of Medicine (UCFM) changed its undergraduate curriculum in 1995, after many years of planning and consultative meetings. The current curriculum has included teaching learning methods like problem based learning (PBL) tutorials; small group discussions (SGD), Fixed Learning Modules (FiLM), student seminars and presentations, Integrated Ward Classes (IWC) etc. that are more student centred learning activities. However, didactic lectures and tutorials are still used as teaching tools in the curriculum. Objectives of this study are to identify the teachers' perceptions of their teaching styles and to what extent these teaching styles are suitable for teaching in the student centred curriculum at UCFM.

A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out among the UCFM staff involved in PBL and SGD teaching. A self administered, pilot tested questionnaire was given out to 92 staff members. The questionnaire contained 28 statements reflecting four types of teaching styles domains – assertive, suggestive, collaborative and facilitative. The former two are teacher centred and latter two are student centred. The responses were marked on a Likert scale by the staff. The results obtained were analysed using SPSS to generate total mean and standard deviation per domain and per item statement.

Response rate was 81% (76 staff responded). Total mean for assertive domain is 2.95 with a SD of 1.35. Total mean for the suggestive domain is 3.24 with a SD of 1.18. Total mean for the collaborative domain is 3.81 with a SD of 1.14 and the total mean for the facilitative domain is 3.72 with a SD of 1.18. However, when per item statement analysis is done it is evident that some item statements in the assertive and suggestive teacher style domains have high mean scores.

The perceptions of the teachers' at UCFM on their teaching styles with regard to facilitation of PBL tutorials and SGD's is one that is student centered and it is inline with the educational objectives of the University of Colombo Faculty of Medicine.