

Editorial

Small Group Teaching

By definition, a small group is a number of people interacting in a face to face situation. A "small group" is around 08 to 12 learners facilitated by a teacher.

The actual view of small group teaching is that it must be learner centred with students joining in free discussion of a particular topic.

Small groups provide opportunities for learning that are difficult to establish in large group settings. They are particularly useful to enable learners to take part in discussion, active participation, feedback and reflection, and to consolidate learning, clarify understanding and explore ideas and concepts. Small group teaching can also help to develop "transferable" skills such as study skills, communication skills, teamwork, problem solving and personal development.

Small group teaching allows active participation by all members, allows interaction between participants, encourages students to self direct learning and encourages self motivation and reflection. It also promotes deeper understanding of study materials through discussion with others.

Exchange knowledge/views among participants, increase self confidence through expressing and defending one ideas, offers working in group,

enhances problem solving abilities, promotes a goal oriented study- all a student develops from small group teaching. It also harmonizes teacher learner relationship.

Disadvantages of small group teaching are weaker students are often discouraged and dependency may develop in group work.

Small group teaching have vital role to develop learning process of medical students. The student centered focus and active participation enhance the deep learning. The student becomes a self learner. Small group teaching process makes a student to communicate effectively and develop self confidence.

A curriculum is generally regarded as a programme of instruction which provides a descriptive outline of courses, their arrangement and sequence, the time assigned to them, the contents to be covered in them, the instructional methods to be employed and finally evaluation. Understanding the merits of small group teaching, the presently reviewed MBBS curriculum 2012 have increased the teaching hours of small group.

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