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Journal Clubs: Perception Of Post Graduate Allied Health Students.

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ABSTRACT

In journal club, the presenter presents a case of his interest or a rare case and the audience which includes teachers and his co students, critically analyze the case. In general, post graduate departments conduct the journal clubs once a week. The present study was undertaken to observe the perceptions of post graduate allied health science students with regard to journal club. The study includes ten post graduate students studying allied health sciences. Students were asked to present a case or study as per their interest in the weekly journal club held in the department. After all the students completed their presentation, they were asked to provide a feedback about their perceptions on journal club. The study results suggest that the students were more interested about the journal clubs and they also perceived that the journal club improves their self-esteem. The study was conducted at one center. Though the results cannot be generalized, but the study highlights the importance of journal club. The study also recommends further detailed studies in this area.

Keywords: Education, Journal club, Students

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Introduction

There is increase in the demand for medical and paramedical professionals especially in the current year where the whole world is being affected with corona disease. So, there is a strong need for trained professionals to handle the situations correctly. Medical and paramedical professionals require communicating with the patients effectively related to the case description. Presentation of a case to the patient or his relatives with detailed description of available treatments with pros and cons in each of them is crucial for taking the consent as per the prescribed regulations. Hence, there is a need of training to the students in medical and paramedical professions for better communication and presentation of cases.

In journal club, the presenter presents a case of his interest or a rare case and the audience which includes teachers and his co students, critically analyze the case. In general, post graduate departments conduct the journal clubs once a week.¹ In fact this is a type of teaching and learning method.² When the presenter prepares a case thoroughly and presents to audience, the audience listen to it cautiously and tries to highlight the draw backs and in this discussion they may generate a new idea to overcome those difficulties.³ The present study was undertaken to observe the perceptions of post graduate allied health science students with regard to journal club.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design: Observational study

Study participants: The study includes ten male (n=3) and female (n=7) post graduate students studying allied health sciences at Little Flower Medical Research Centre, after obtaining informed consent.

Journal club: Students were asked to present a case or study as per their interest in the weekly journal club held in the department. After all the students completed their presentation, they were asked to provide a feedback about their perceptions on journal club. This will help to plan and modify if needed the way of conducting the journal club.

Data analysis: Data was analyzed using SPSS 20.0 version. Data was expressed as frequency and distribution.

Ethical statement: The study protocol was approved by the institutional human ethics committee. Written informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

Results: Out of ten students 7 were females and three were males. Results were presented in table no 1. 80 % of students rated excellent about their enthusiasm for journal club presentation. 70 % of students rated excellent about their guidance from faculty for preparation. 70 % of students rated excellent about Organized and timed your presentation. 90 % of students rated excellent about audio visual aids they have used during the presentation. 80 % of students rated excellent about their outline of journal club. 80 % of students rated excellent about overall journal club. 70 % of students rated excellent about their self-esteem at the end of presentation.

Table 1: Students perceptions about journal club

S.no	Question	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
1	Enthusiasm for journal club presentation	8 (80)	2 (20)	0	0
2	Guidance from faculty for preparation	7 (70)	3 (30)	0	0
3	Organized and timed your presentation	7 (70)	3 (30)	0	0
4	Audio visual aids you have used	9 (90)	1 (10)	0	0
5	Your outline of journal club is	8 (80)	2 (20)	0	0
6	On the whole the journal club was	9 (90)	1 (10)	0	0
7	At the end of presentation, your self-esteem was	7 (70)	3 (30)	0	0

Data presented was in frequency and percentage

DISCUSSION

Journal club is an innovative method of teaching and learning the curriculum.⁴ Journal clubs provokes critical thinking process and helps to analyses the research results critically.⁵ These critical thinking skills are highly essential for the medical and paramedical professionals. The present study was undertaken to observe the perceptions of post graduate allied health science students with regard to journal club. The study results suggest that the students were more interested about the journal clubs and they also perceived that the journal club improves their self-esteem. Journal club is an effective way to teach the students about the research. When they themselves present a study, they will understand different study designs and the difficulties that the earlier researcher came across and prepare themselves to overcome those difficulties.⁶⁻⁸ Selecting the article for presentation is crucial. The student can take help of mentor and can discuss in detail about the study before he go for presentation. There is a need to conduct every post graduate department to familiarize students to research and also to develop critical thinking skills.

CONCLUSION

The study results suggest that the students were more interested about the journal clubs and they also perceived that the journal club improves their self-esteem. The study was conducted at one center. Though the results cannot be generalized, but the study highlights the importance of journal club. The study also recommends further detailed studies in this area.

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