

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT - A BOON TO STUDENTS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Students of professional courses have to undergo internal assessment before taking up their Final University examinations, This internal assessment will make them to read subjects before appearing the University Examinations which will create confidence in their mind and time to improve their performance. It is part of curriculum in all the subjects. Every year, three or four internal assessments will be conducted in all the subjects and marks will be sent to the university. So this study is a comparative study in two colleges in two different subjects. In both subjects, students have shown improvement in their performance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Internal Assessments of First year M.B.B.S. Students were conducted both at ESIC Medical College and PGIMSR, Rajajinagar, Bangalore in the Department of Biochemistry & at Sree Mookambika Institute of Medicine, Kulasekharam-629101, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu in the Department of Anatomy. Observations were made on their performance. Three internals were conducted. Even practicals and viva voce were conducted & marks were entered in 3 columns namely, Theory, Practical and Viva voce.

OBSERVATIONS

It was observed that many students did fairly well in the internal assessment and these internal assessments made them to score very good marks in university examination. It was internal assessment examination that made them to cover the entire syllabus and created a self-confidence in their minds. Assessment was done in the class room to the portion what has been covered in the class. So it plays an important role in the progress and enables them to expose their skills. So internal assessment will be of paramount importance for the students.

CONCLUSION

Internal assessment is a boon to the students of Medicine which creates a great confidence in their minds before taking university examinations.

KEYWORDS

Assessment, Performance, Equal Attention, Skill, Concentration, Confidence, Class Room.

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INTRODUCTION: Internal Assessment is the evaluation of students when they are in the classroom. Internal Assessment is most important part for teachers, students, and parents in evaluating progress of students. This is conducted in all professional and nonprofessional colleges. The marks obtained by the student also shows weakness or lacunae of the student, so that candidate can improve in university examination. The assessment of students will lead to improvement in quality by training and increasing the depth in the subjects. It helps the teachers to know the exact weakness of students and improve them by giving proper guidance and individual attention.

This guidance will overcome the inhibition, stress of the subject and creates interest in the subject so that he can go more in depth of the subject. By doing so the relationship between students and teacher improves for giving the guidance and clearing the doubts about the subjects.

AIM OF THE STUDY: The objective of present study is observations and comparison of performance of students in two different subjects of two different institutions.

Inclusion Factors: All the students studying in First Year MBBS are included in each subject.

Exclusion Factors: Students who discontinued courses are excluded from this study.

Allotment of Time for Covering the Syllabus: Time allotment for teaching should be carried out in terms of hours. Teaching allotment time varies from subject to subject, for example Anatomy teaching hours are longer than any other subjects. Specific number of hours are required to cover the syllabus.

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Notification of Internal Assessment Dates: The assessment can be done every three months or after covering specific number of chapters. It also can be done once in six months, semester wise followed by the university examination. Dates of assessment should be announced preferably one month earlier before the commencement so that students can get prepared mentally and plan their study accordingly. Even dates of practical and viva voce can be announced. Practical records should also be corrected by the concerned teachers and scrutinised by other faculty members, then it has to be duly signed by the head of the department. Allotment of marks for the records can be done.

Weekly Assessment: This is another way of assessing the students by conducting part test or viva voce of the portion covered that week. These tests will make them study well and will create confidence in their minds to appear for both internal assessment as well as university examinations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Observations were done on students of two Medical Colleges, namely ESIC Medical College and PGIMSR, Rajajinager, Bangalore [Karnataka] in the Department of Biochemistry and at Sree Mookambika Institute of Medicine, Kulasekharam - Kanyakumari District [Tamilnadu] in the Department of Anatomy where intake is one hundred students in both colleges. Three internals were conducted. Theory followed by practical and viva voce were conducted. Papers were corrected and final list was prepared in the all three internals and displayed on the notice board. Low achievers were given advice and parents were informed regarding performances of their children.

OBSERVATIONS:

- A. At ESIC Medical College and PGIMSR, Rajajinager, Bangalore in the Department of Biochemistry: Results have shown gradual improvement in performances of all the three internals in the Subject of Biochemistry. Initially, there were more failures in the first internals as they were new to the subjects. In the second internals, there was steep raise in percentages of passes because students developed confidence and more effort was there along with more number of first classes. In the last internal, there were only few failures which may be due to their disinterest in the subject or may be due to difficulty in the subject or neglecting to read the subject and they are not eligible to appear for the university examination. Rest have scored well due to perseverance and regularity in their studies. No re-internals was conducted to low achievers.
- B. At Sree Mookambika Institute of Medicine Kulasekharam-629101, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu in the Department of Anatomy: Anatomy is a vast difficult subject which has two divisions in the practicals namely Dissection and Histology. So this subject has more number of teaching hours. Initially, all students found more difficulty in the subject;

however, their performance in their 1st internal was very bad in spite of table teaching and demonstration of histology slides. Very few students passed. But psychologically it was not a blow for the students but made them alert. Later on, in the second internals, their performances satisfactorily improved due to involvement in the subject both by teaching faculty and students at Table teaching. In third internals, there was great improvement where only 2-3 students have taken marks below 40%. Rest have taken more than 55% to 65% of marks. It is due to regularity in the reading and clarifying their doubts and seeing the structures repeatedly. Hence, the internals have helped the students to great extent in all subjects.

DISCUSSION: Internal evaluation observations were done in 2 Medical Colleges during this year 2015-2016. Previous batch of students have shown good response in the university examination. Rest showed average performance due to perseverance and hard work. Marks were sent either, average of three internals or the best the two internals. These internal marks supported students in the university examinations. Advice was given to both low achievers as well as their parents to improve the marks in the forthcoming examinations. These students were taken care by giving individual attention and continuous guidance.

To conduct internal evaluation, there should be clear guidelines which are essential both for teachers and students for the topics. Guidelines should be applicable to experimental studies. Any experimental study that causes stress, anxiety, discomfort to the participants should not be permitted. Any experimental study having involuntary participation, invasion of privacy, inappropriate use of information and communication technology should be strictly avoided. All the participants must come to know the commencement of dates of experimental study. There should not be any pressure on any individual for continuation of experimental study. Aims and objectives of the research must be informed to each participant. Young children should not be allowed to take part. If children want to take part, then written consent should be taken from their parents. Students taking part must ensure that parents should be kept informed regarding participation. If the experimental study is done in the school, then written consent should be taken by the teachers taking part in the study. Any research conducted with any adult who is not in state of sound mind should be avoided. Experimental study should not be on animals. Students who carry out unethical work will not be awarded any marks for the internals.¹

Advantages of Internal Assessment: Internal Assessment is the evaluation inside the class room. It shows as basis for development of profession, teachers can analyse work of their students. Internal Assessment enables the teachers to monitor Learning as a part of their teaching process, and shows progress of the students that cannot be

done in the external assessment. A good internal assessment will minimise re-teaching.²

Present Study: All the students showed gradual, steady marked improvement in their performance because of internal evaluations. After each internal evaluation, parents-teachers' meetings were held. Their progress was discussed. Parents came to know the son's/daughter's performance. At the end of the academic year, marks list of all three internals were prepared and shown to parents confirming their position. Advice was given to both [Parents and candidate]. Parents were told to watch their children and advise their children to study. So internal evaluation as well as Parents-Teachers' Meeting will benefit all the students in the university examination.

CONCLUSION: Internal Assessment is a boon to the students that enables them to improve their performance and to prepare for university examination as well as create

confidence and interest in subjects. Equal attention has to be given to all subjects of Medicine.

Take-Home Message: It is an essential part of the course and it is compulsory before taking final examination. So attending classes regularly and reading what is taught daily makes a student's work easy to score higher marks in examinations. Hence, it is strongly recommended by Medical Council of India as well as State Universities of Health Sciences to conduct internals.

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