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Perception of virtual learning during Covid 19 pandemic by recently graduated Medical Students, University of Jaffna

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Introduction Covid 19 pandemic pushed to implement ‘Virtual Learning’ in medical education. During this pandemic, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna scheduled virtual teaching for the medical students following Professorial appointments in all five specialties. The teaching and learning activities were carried out based on zoom platform and face to face sessions where relevant.

Objective To evaluate the perception of virtual learning during Covid 19 pandemic by recently graduated Medical Students of University of Jaffna.

Method Well designed pre tested questionnaire about the final year medical education was developed to assess students’ perception of virtual learning and their views and suggestions when comparing virtual learning with traditional learning. The questionnaire was distributed on the last day of the final year examination and the responses were analysed.

Results Out of 127 students who responded to the questionnaire, 72.4% of students felt that they obtained adequate theory knowledge and 59.1% of the students experienced difficulties to gain adequate skill based clinical knowledge by virtual learning. 60.6% of the students had the impression that the virtual learning helped to face the final MBBS exam. 58.3% of students were not satisfied with the virtual learning as it did not meet their expectations. 69.3% of students preferred traditional teaching and learning methods for clinical case demonstrations rather than virtual learning methods.

Conclusion 72.4% admitted that they obtained adequate theory knowledge and 59.1% experienced difficulties to gain adequate skill based clinical knowledge through this virtual learning method. 69.3% of students did not recommend virtual learning as a main mode of clinical teaching for final year students in future.