

# 'Being a Competent Medical Teacher'



BLDE Deemed to be University  
Shri B. M. Patil Medical College Hospital  
and Research Centre Vijayapura  
**Medical Education Unit**

Editor

Dr Tejashwini Vallabha



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Publication

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☎ +(91) 798 422 6340  
🌐 www.mahipublication.com



₹ 399/-



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**ISBN: 978-81-949392-9-0**

**First Edition: 2020**

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**PRICE ₹ 399/-**

**PUBLISHER  
MAHI PUBLICATION**

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-  mahibookpublication@gmail.com
-  +(91) 798 422 6340
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# CONTENTS

Sl. No.	TOPIC	Page No.
1	Systems approach to Medical Education	
2	Principles of Adult Learning and Learning Process	
3	Taxonomy of Learning and Educational objectives	
4	Good Teaching Practices	
5	Microteaching	
6	Teaching Learning Methodology- Small Group Teaching and Lecturing a Large Group	
7	Appropriate Use of Media	
8	Multiple Choice Questions	
9	Item Analysis	
10	Long Essay Question and Short Answer Question	
11	OSCE/OSPE	
12	Clinical / Bedside Teaching	
13	Practical examination, Long case & its improvement	
14	Importance and skills of giving effective Feedback	

# 7 TEACHING LEARNING METHODS

## SMALL GROUP TEACHING

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### **Introduction:**

Small group teaching (SGT) is a face to face interaction carried out in a planned, organised and democratic manner among members of relatively small group having a common purpose of achieving specific learning objectives. Size of the group varies from 5 to 10 participants or may extend up to 20 or 30 participants.

### **Advantages**

- Develops higher order thinking skills – application of concepts and problem solving.
- Develops communication skills.

### **Types of small group teaching: Group Discussion:**

It is a face to face interaction between participants of a small group, usually consisting of 5 to 20 participants.

#### Advantages:

- It is democratic & demands activity on the part of the learner.
  - Learner discovers his strengths & weaknesses compared to those of his fellow learners.
- #### Disadvantages:
- Necessity of optimum Teacher-Student ratio.
  - Poorly prepared & inexperienced group. Improving the effectiveness of Group Discussion:
  - Role of instructor/facilitator –

- o Must be well prepared to clarify doubts & guide the flow of discussion.
- o Should know each member of the group.
- o Should be experienced.
- o Should plan for suitable environment.
- o Regulating the group-

Students–

- o Initiator/contributor
- o Information/opinion giver
- o Evaluator
- o Record keeper
- o Reporter

Types of group discussion:

- Controlled discussion
- Free group discussion
- Buzz group discussion
- Brain storming discussion
- Syndicate discussion.

### **Seminar:**

It consists of group of persons engaged in advanced study of a subject, who meet under the direction of an expert staff.

Advantage – Availability of an authority on the subject, enables in-depth discussion & authoritative guidance.

Disadvantage – Difficult in getting suitable resource person.

### **Tutorials:**

A small group of learners are guided by a teacher to help enhance their knowledge, improve understanding of the subject & clear doubts.

Advantages–

- Active learning
- Opportunity to amend mistakes & to find out extent of learning.

Disadvantage – Poor preparation of the learner group.

**Demonstration:**

It is a method where teacher performs some operation to demonstrate the skill or a phenomenon, while the students watch & learn.

Practical/ Bedside Teaching / Field Work: Advantages –

- Active learning process.
- Permits evaluation of all three domains.
- Develops qualities of scientific thoughts. Disadvantages – High personal costs.

**Roll Play:** Acting out a situation, it helps to learn the communication skills.

**Workshop:**

It is a meeting in which experienced persons in responsible positions come together with experts to find solution to problem that have cropped up in the course of their work.

Advantages –

- Active involvement by each participant who work & learn from practical (hands on) experience.
- Many different teaching learning methods can be incorporated.

**Process of SGT**

- Planning stage
- Functioning
- Evaluation
- Feedback
- Re-planning

**Large Group Teaching****Introduction**

Teaching is a process which facilitates learning by encouraging learners to think, feel & do. Learning is a process which results in relatively permanent change in the behaviour of the learner in the way of thinking, feeling & doing and is reflected in the acquisition of knowledge and skills and development in attitude by the learner. Learning is an active and continuous process.

### **Classification of teaching learning methods:**

1. Control based classification.
  - a. Teacher controlled teaching learning activity –lectures, symposium, team teaching, demonstration, bedside clinics etc.
  - b. Learner controlled teaching learning activities – free group discussion, project work, and self study.
2. Group size based classification:
  - a. Large group method –lecture, symposium, panel discussion.
  - b. Small group method (5-30 learners) – group discussion, seminar, workshop, bedside clinics, demonstration, field visit.
  - c. Individual teaching learning methods – project work, assignment.

### **Large Group Teaching Learning Methods:**

#### **Lecture:**

Lecture is a presentation of facts with organised thoughts & ideas by a qualified person. It is the oldest, most common and dominantly used teaching method. One teacher/facilitator speaks to a large group of learners with the help of A-V aids

#### Advantage:

1. It is an economical, simple and quick way of imparting knowledge to the students.
2. It is useful teaching learning method for large group.
3. It is live personal means of motivating, sensitising and stimulating the students and is a good means for introducing new subject or topic

#### Disadvantages:

1. Passive nature of the audience and limited feedback may lead to low receptivity and relative ineffectivity
2. Facilitator should have high skill to engage attention of learner for 40 - 60 minutes
3. Heterogeneous group – Under achievers and high achievers

#### Lecture planning: (What and How) Content

1. Purpose - Set the objectives. Objectives from must to know area is must
2. Sequences of the content– identify the points that need to be stressed.



3. Select appropriate AV aids

Delivery of the lecture

1. Introduction:
  - a. Begin by arousing the interest. b. Present aims & objectives.
2. Body:
  - a. Tell the matter relevant to topic in sequential manner
  - b. Avoid monotony.
  - c. Assess learner response.
  - d. Give two to three minutes break between main points. e. Present summary at the end.
3. Steps to improve active participation by the learner.
  - a. Open the lecture with series of question
  - b. Interactive session.

Evaluation of effectiveness of lecture:

- a. Questioning
- b. Informal feedback - Student behaviour
- c. Formal feedback -by student evaluation.
- d. Peer evaluation.
- e. Pre test and Post test

Classroom management:

- a. Monitoring the classroom activities to minimise disruptive behaviour.
- b. Managing the misbehaviour quickly (criticize the act –not the person).

Best practice while delivering a lecture-

1. Present material clearly & logically.
2. Enable learners to understand basic principles
3. Should be clearly audible.
4. Presentation should move from known to unknown & from simple to complex.
5. Utilize teaching aids judiciously.

Pre-requisites for improving skills in learning – micro teaching, mini teaching & classroom interaction analysis.

## ***A good lecturer is a Text Book plus Personality – Flexner***

### **Symposiu:**

Symposium is a series of prepared short talks (10 to 15 minutes) given by experts (numbering 2 to 5) on many aspects of a topic under a chairperson. There is no discussion among the speakers. The audience is passive unless question time is allotted (symposium forum)

Advantag:

1. Concise & logical presentation of new ideas.
  2. Fair analysis of different aspects of controversial issues.
  3. Short speeches & change of speaker keeps the audience alert.
- Limitations: Audience is passive, unless question time is permitted.

### **Penal discussion:**

Group of 4 or more sit with a moderator. They conduct an orderly logical conversation on assigned topic. Each member delivers an opening remark for 3 to 5 minutes, before exchanging ideas. Each member a particular view of the topic.

Advantag:

1. Audience can understand various aspects of the problem or issue.
2. Frequent change of speaker & their viewpoint retains the interest of the audience.

Limitations:

1. The panellist may not cover all aspects of the problem or issue.
2. Audience is passive, unless question time is permitted.

### **Team teachig:**

Objective of team teaching is improving quality of the teaching by utilizing talent and skill of team of teachers. It involves use of special talents or skills of many teachers to provide variety of learning experience. Workshop is an example of this style of team teaching Specialisation based team teaching involves multidisciplinary team of teachers who provide modular teaching learning on national health programme