

In present days, the use of information technology (IT) in education is unquestionable. The mounting advancement of IT has changed the scenario of education. With the emergence of the current COVID-19 situation, it has undoubtedly provided a solution to most of our educational needs when all educational institutions remained closed due to the pandemic. This study aims to identify the medical students' attitude towards the practice of e-learning amidst COVID-19. A descriptive web-based cross-sectional study was conducted among medical students with a sample size of 168. A self-administered validated questionnaire along with a standard tool to measure the attitude was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using SPSS. The mean \pm SD age of the respondents was 20.91 ± 1.55 years. The majority (90.5%) of the respondents used mobile for their study and 90.4% used Wi-Fi for the internet source. The main advantage of e-learning was ability to stay at comfortable environment at home followed by the learning in their own place (51.3%), and the ability to record the meeting (34.5%). whereas the internet problem (81.7%) was the major disadvantage followed by technical issues (65.5%). Only about 34% of the students found e-learning as effective as traditional face-to-face learning. e-learning was more or equally effective in four parameters such as assignment submission and meeting individual needs, but less effective in six parameters, including building skills and knowledge, and interaction level. Satisfaction was either high or neutral in all five parameters. Our findings have shown that e-learning can assist the teaching process in medical schools in some respects, but cannot be used for the entire teaching process.

Abstract

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Conclusion Though e-learning was implemented as a substitute during the pandemic, almost half of the medical students showed a positive attitude regarding e-learning. The majority of the students had internet problems and technological issues. If e-learning can be made user-friendly with reduced technical barriers supplemented with programs that can enhance practical learning abilities, e-learning can be the vital

alternative teaching method and learning in the medical field but cannot be used for the entire teaching process.