

A comparative Study on Modified Small Group Discussion Versus Traditional Tutorial: Among Medical Undergraduates of University of Jaffna

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As a result of curriculum revision under IRQUE, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna has decided to change (from 2008 intake) to student-centered, modified integrated spiral curriculum. Because of the shortage of staff and the prevailing situation, the change could be achieved in steps. As a part of this change, it has been decided to introduce modified small group discussions (SGD) where one mobile tutor facilitates many small groups. These SGD would be centered around case scenarios rather than past questions used in traditional tutorials. This study was designed to compare the usage of resource materials by the students for preparation, participation, perception and usefulness of SGD with traditional tutorial, among a batch of medical students using self administered questionnaires, just after each session. Data was analyzed using SPSS (version 12) software. The results indicated that there was no significant difference in the usage of study materials. The students responded that the satisfaction in their participation (81%), perception (82%) and the usefulness (81%) were very high in SGD, compared with the traditional tutorials. This difference was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). This preliminary study could be a base for further detail studies of case scenarios in different depth and levels.