

# Evaluation of e-module on ethics in physiotherapy by assessing Final year physiotherapy students

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## Abstract:

Physiotherapy ethics is an integral part of physiotherapy curriculum and modular pattern of e-learning is on rise .So a study was undertaken to know the effectiveness of the E-module on ethics on final year students batches of physiotherapy as assessed by student's performance in examination on completion of module. A study was carried out on bachelor of physiotherapy students of VSPM College of Physiotherapy for 5 consecutive batches. It was observed that all the students could clear the examination although variations existed in the assessment scores of students in all batches.

**Keywords:** Physiotherapy, e-module, Ethics

## Introduction

Physiotherapy ethics is an integral part of physiotherapy curriculum. Studies have indicated that ethics has been promoted even by world health organization (1-2) and WHO has even developed a module for south East Asian region (3-4). Earlier studies have never focused on physiotherapy ethics as physiotherapy is relatively newer branch of health science profession. Moreover earlier one study was done by developing the e-module on ethics for knowing the effectiveness of e-module by questionnaires as well as with assessment scores but that study was a pilot study(5). In order to know how well the module is designed the studies have to be considered for longer periods of time. So the current study was undertaken on final year students of bachelor of physiotherapy student's performance in examination on completion of module.

## Aim

To evaluate an e-module on Ethics in Physiotherapy

## Objective

To assess scores of Physiotherapy Final year student's performances in examination on completion of E-Module for Physiotherapy Ethics for 5 consecutive batches

## Material & Methods:

A study was designed and carried out on final year students of bachelor of physiotherapy of last five batches of VSPM College of Physiotherapy. The subjects who voluntarily consented for being the subjects for the study were included. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee. The final year students of summer 2013 (n=25), winter 2013 (n=5), summer 2014 (n=15),

winter 2014 (n=11), summer 2015 (n=24), amounting to 80 were enrolled for the study.

## E-module on Ethics in Physiotherapy

An e-module was developed in the power point format. The objective of the module was to make the students aware about the knowledge of various terminologies commonly used in ethics & also about the ethical code of professional practice along with ethical dilemmas worksheet. The module was prepared according to the syllabus as prescribed by Maharashtra University of Health Science Nashik.

Standard books (6) and references (7,8,9) were used for preparing the module. The e module was then posted on the e mails of all the students for consecutive 5 batches without altering the contents. The exam schedule was notified well in advance and was according to the university schedule of examination. The duration of examination and pattern of examination was also in accordance with the Maharashtra University of Health Science Nashik. In all 80 students formed the sample from whom the data was collected. Convenient sampling was used and all the students who appeared for the exam on ethics on completion of e module were considered. There were no dropouts as exam is mandatory for passing the course.

Maharashtra University of health sciences, (MUHS) Nasik has two batches that is one regular batch and one odd batch and based on the university enrollment for exam appearance the students were provided with e-modules accordingly and were later on evaluated according to the set guidelines of MUHS Nasik.

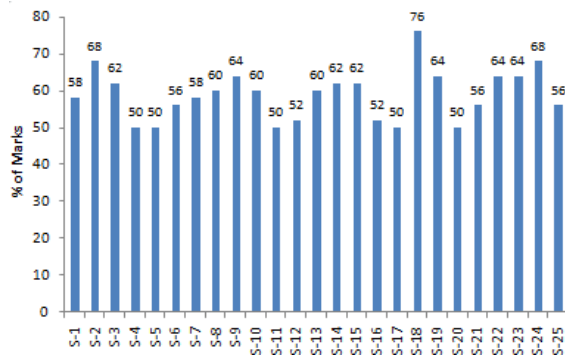
## Data analysis:

The raw data obtained from the study which was in the form of assessment scores which the students

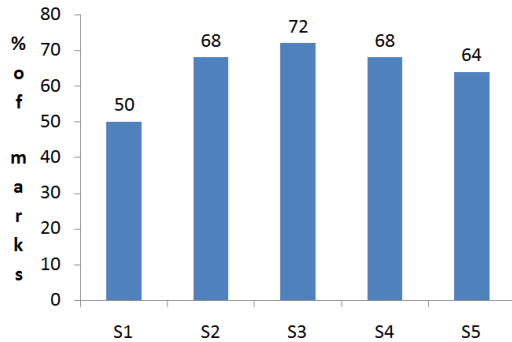
scored in the examination on ethics was entered in the Microsoft Excel sheet 2007 and was analyzed by Epi-Info software. The study being descriptive in nature the responses were expressed in percentages.

**Results:**

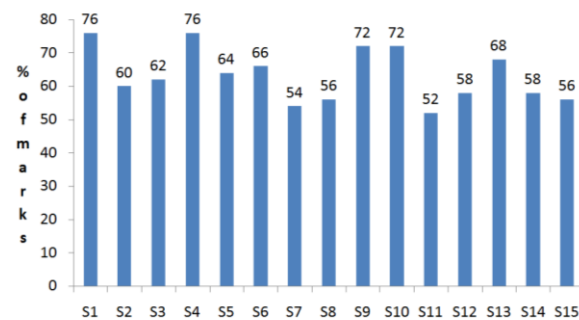
The results obtained from the study have shown the following scores of all the students of 5 consecutive batches. The batches were from summer 2013 till summer 2015. There were 25, 5, 15, 11, & 24 in 5 different batches and assessment scores obtained in percentages of each student have been reflected accordingly from Figure 1 to 5.



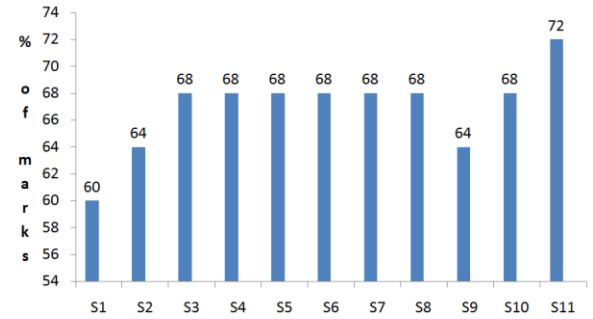
**Fig 1: Scores of summer 2013 batch.**



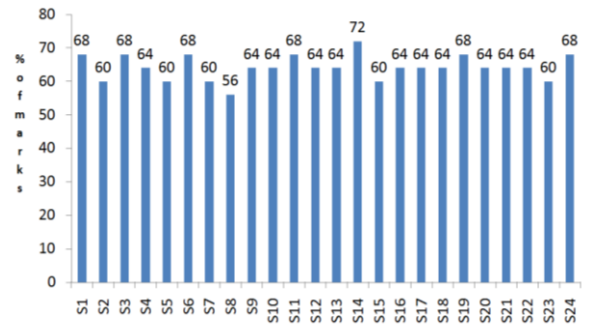
**Fig 2: Scores of winter 2013 Batch**



**Fig 3: Scores of summer 2014 batch**



**Fig 4: Scores of winter 2014 batch**



**Fig 5: Scores of summer 2015 batch**

**Discussion**

The results of the study clearly indicate that the objective of the study “Assessment scores of Physiotherapy Final year student’s performances in examination on completion of e-Module for Physiotherapy Ethics for 5 consecutive batches” was achieved. Although the batches were not uniform with regards to number of students but this would not have impacted the study as it involved modular pattern of learning. Moreover all the students enrolled in every batch had participated in the study. The scoring patterns of the students were varying emphasizing the fact that individual variations do exist. Interestingly it was noticed that all the students cleared the examinations. The results obtained are also in consistence with the earlier studies of Kumar P et al, pilot study (5). Based on the performances of students for 5 consecutive batches it is observed that the modular pattern of learning ethics is effective. The study further indicates that health science professional students performed equally good even with e module as reflected by the scores obtained on the completion of e module and assessed by the examination conducted in accordance with the university norms.

The study is not in a position to comment upon the differences in scoring pattern of modular teaching with that of traditional classroom teaching as it is not the aim of the study moreover all the students were exposed to modular teaching with e module. But further studies in this regards could be

carried out in order to find out which mode of teaching would facilitate better learning.

This study has also shown that although this is the era of technology but still few students from all the batches were not having the e mail accounts so they were accordingly helped & encouraged to open the email accounts and were taught to go through the module. This study has also made the students to move towards the modular pattern of learning which is one of the global trends for education.

Although developing the module is time consuming for the facilitators but still then it helps the student learn according to their convenience which indicates that it is a student centric learning contrary to teacher centric learning.

### **Conclusion:**

It can thus be concluded that based on the assessment scores obtained by the students of final year bachelor of physiotherapy. The e module on ethics was well understood. This emphasizes the fact that subjects like ethics could be taught with modular patterns. The study has also proved that modular pattern of learning can also help students to learn ethics.

### **Impact:**

The study indicates that the e module has been well accepted and this type of modules facilitates for adult way of learning (androgogy) for students. Moreover the learners have all the liberty to go through the modules according to their convenience which further facilitates better learning and emphasizes androgogy.

### **Limitations:**

The limitation of the study was that it did not include students from other physiotherapy colleges of this region so as to further generalize the findings.

### **Acknowledgement:**

The authors thank the management of V.S.P.M. College of Physiotherapy & Mr. Nayse NKP SIMS & RC Nagpur for statistical support.

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