

Were the Online Training Courses Imparted to Consultants in the COVID Era Really Effective?

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Dear Editor,

This is not hidden but a well-established fact now that, besides the COVID pandemic, there has been another tsunami ongoing in our country for the last two years in the form of online training and webinars. In the pre-COVID era, there was virtually no concept of e-learning in India. (1) Apart from the initiatives of the government of India through various national and state-level organizations, many professional and scientific associations and the pharma industry have started reaching out to healthcare professionals for the dispensation of knowledge on newer relevant topics in COVID times. It is a personal experience that every day, inboxes are flooded with messages for training sessions, webinars, etc. But, in all this, we almost forgot to assess whether these online sessions were effectively imparting knowledge as desired, or were only a means to gather certificates of training imparted. In reality, many of us were simultaneously attending to our outpatient work along with other clinical and routine administrative work

and were also completing the compulsory training desired to be completed in the stipulated timeframes. It was also observed that during various online teaching sessions, many participants were just logged in but not paying attention to the content being discussed. (2) Because online learning differs greatly from traditional classroom instruction, its methodology must be evaluated. Pre-and post-training questionnaires must be an integral part of these to make them more productive. (3, 4)

Let us not fail to consider the positive aspects of numerous webinars, which assisted in disseminating newly obtained evidence for combating the epidemic by professionals and decreasing devastation from the comfort of our homes during lockdowns, isolations, and quarantines. These online resources kept us going when everything came to a standstill. Open access repositories of data created a momentum that helped in finding newer ideas for battling the COVID pandemic. The world has now taken important steps towards the creation of ecosystems for e-learning. Though

still in their infancy, these online resources will carve out a niche for themselves and supplement traditional learning methods in the future.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in this study.

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