

Perception of Undergraduate Students And Faculties Regarding Electives

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Abstract

Background: National medical commission of India introduced *electives* in the medical curriculum for M.B.B.S. batch 2019 while they completed 3rd phase part-I (before commencement of 3rd phase part-II). An elective module was introduced by NMC for universal implementation of this new concept in the Medical Colleges of India. Our college under the guidance of our Dean/Principal and MEU Co-ordinator implemented the *ELECTIVES* for students. This study has been done to observe the perception of medical undergraduates regarding electives and faculties who have been assigned to be the Internal preceptors. A cross-sectional survey was done to observe the effectiveness and importance of electives according to students and faculties.

Aim and Objectives: To evaluate the perceptions of undergraduate students and faculties regarding ELECTIVE programme and its effectiveness.

Methodology: The study was conducted on 24 students of phase 3 part II (BATCH 2020) and 19 faculties of various departments involved as internal preceptors in elective programme of K.D. MEDICAL COLLEGE MATHURA. Questionnaire having both closed ended objective questions and open ended questions was used to assess the perspective of students and faculties with questions inter-related with respect to elective programme.

Findings: 95.8% students and 100% internal preceptors (faculties) have suggested that an orientation/sensitization is the necessary prior to initiate the Electives, to achieve more learning from the concept. 87.5% students and 73.7% faculties have accepted that the goal of elective programme is being realized

Conclusions: A positive perception was observed amongst students as well as amongst faculties as internal preceptors regarding elective programme. This observation thus suggests that elective has provided a good tool to learn of choice topics, but most of the study participants also agreed to the fact that an orientation/sensitisation programme is necessary for both students as well as faculties prior to the beginning of the elective. Also, elective is a good initiative to gain in depth knowledge of respective subjects and develop an interest in the respective field for higher studies.

Keywords: Nmc, India, Electives, Medical Undergraduates, Internal Preceptors

BACKGROUND:

The elective has been introduced as part of Indian medical curriculum in 2019 and was implemented in 2023 first time as the undergraduate batch (2019) was about to enter 3rd phase part-II. The course has many valuable perspectives and is universally well accepted as introduced by NMC, Initially it was proposed for 2 blocks of 1 month each and later on it was rectified and made 2 blocks (1 para-clinical and 1 clinical) of 15 days each [1]. The elective course helps undergraduate students in attaining some knowledge and experience regarding future postgraduate specialties. Students can be either observe and learn or get immersed actively in multiple aspects of care and tasks, including clinical assessment, diagnosis, care management, or participation in invasive procedures etc. Electives provide many benefits to students, but not all students have the same experience, and some find the elective course as waste of their precious final year time, and effort [6]. The study aims mainly to assess the perception of medical undergraduate students and faculties as internal preceptors regarding electives and its effectiveness and, also to identify the factors that contribute to differences in student experiences so, as to understand how students and faculty can take the advantage of this opportunity.

Elective is defined as a course, generally of short duration, undertaken by a student based on his/ her interest. The concept of elective training dates back to as early as 1918 [4]. Electives are already part of training in various western universities [2], [3], [4].

As per NMC ELECTIVE module, it is a learning experience created in the curriculum to provide an opportunity for the learner to explore, discover and experience areas or streams of interest.

The Objectives are to provide the learner with opportunities

(a) for diverse learning experiences,

(b) to do research/community projects that will stimulate enquiry, self-directed, experiential learning and lateral thinking 1 month are designated for elective rotations (2 WEEKS / BLOCK) after completion of the examination at end of the phase III MBBS part I and before commencement of phase III MBBS part II.

AIM & OBJECTIVES

Aim

To evaluate the perceptions of undergraduate students and faculties regarding ELECTIVE programme

Objectives

To evaluate the understanding of faculties regarding elective programme and its effectiveness.

To evaluate the understanding of students regarding ELECTIVE programme and it's utility for them.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted on 30 students of phase 3 part II (BATCH 2020) and 20 faculties of various departments involved as internal preceptors in Elective programme of K.D.MEDICAL COLLEGE MATHURA. The study started only after ethical approval from Institutional Ethical Committee on 15th of May 2024. Also a formal consent was obtained from various participants (students as well as faculties). Both the groups were blinded to avoid any kind of bias in the answers and opinions.

QUESTIONNAIRE having both closed ended objective questions and open ended questions was used to assess the perspective of students and faculties with questions inter-related with respect to elective programme. This google form questionnaire was pre-validated by MEU members of K.D.MEDICAL

Perceptions	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Can't say
Goal of elective module is being realized	13 (54.2%)	8 (33.3%)	2 (8.3%)	1 (4.2%)
Faculty is actively involved	15 (62.5%)	6 (25%)	1 (4.2%)	2 (8.3%)
Your active participation was there in electives	11 (45.8%)	11 (45.8%)	0	2 (8.3%)
Time duration was ample to achieve the learning process	10 (41.7%)	8 (33.3%)	4 (16.7%)	2 (8.3%)
Faculty took electives as burden	0	1 (4.2%)	16 (66.6%)	7 (29.2%)
Orientation to elective module is necessary prior to the programme	14 (58.3%)	9 (37.5%)	1 (4.2%)	0

COLLEGE MATHURA. The study rejected responses from 6 students and 1 faculty for not submitting complete answers. Hence, data from 24 students and 19 faculties were used for analysis.

Data was collected with the help of Likert's scale and ANALYSIS was done with the help of SPSS 32 software.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

95.8% students whereas 100% internal preceptors (faculties) have suggested that an orientation/sensitisation is the necessity for Electives to achieve more learning from the concept.

57.9% faculties has felt that students are satisfied with this learning process and are gaining benefit while 42.1 % could not analyse the benefit and were neutral in their opinion.

Surprisingly a mixed response on whether the programme is a complete wastage of time was recorded, where 47.4% faculty disagreed 36.8% of them agreed to the point rest others (15.8%) were neutral.

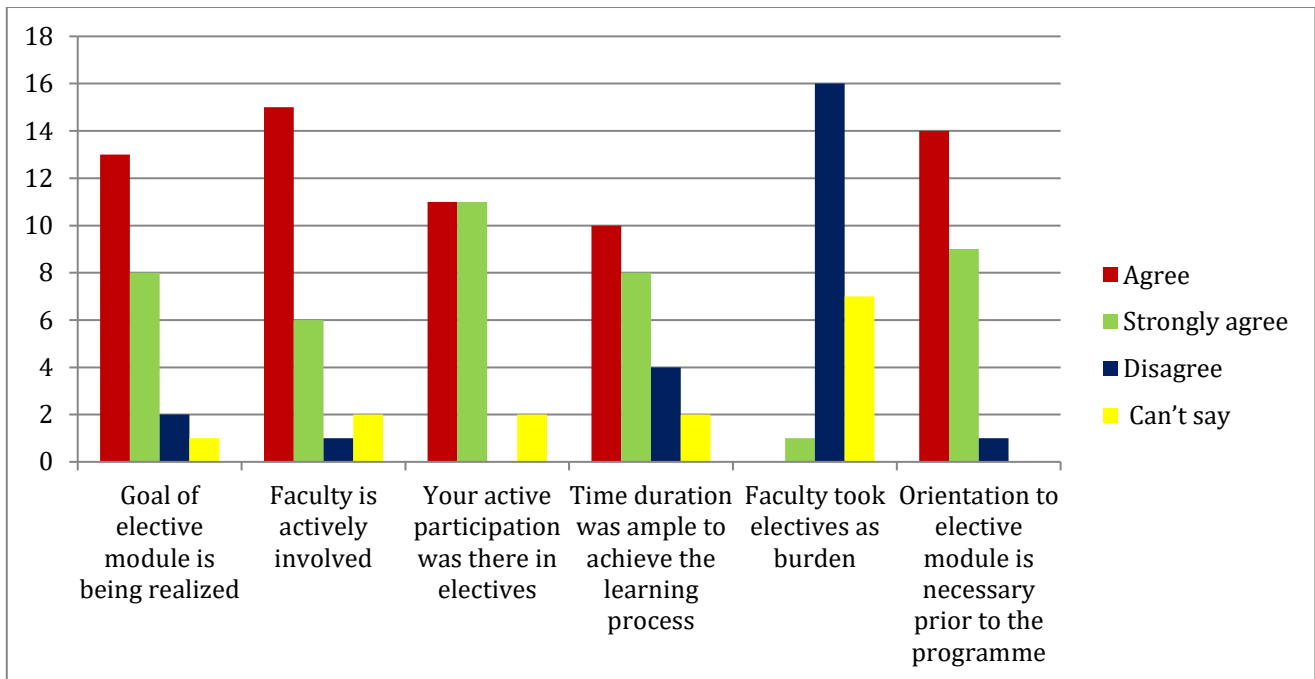
68.3% has opined that students were actively involved in the tasks or activities planned under the respective elective.

87.5% students and 73.7% faculties have accepted that the goal of elective programme is being realised.

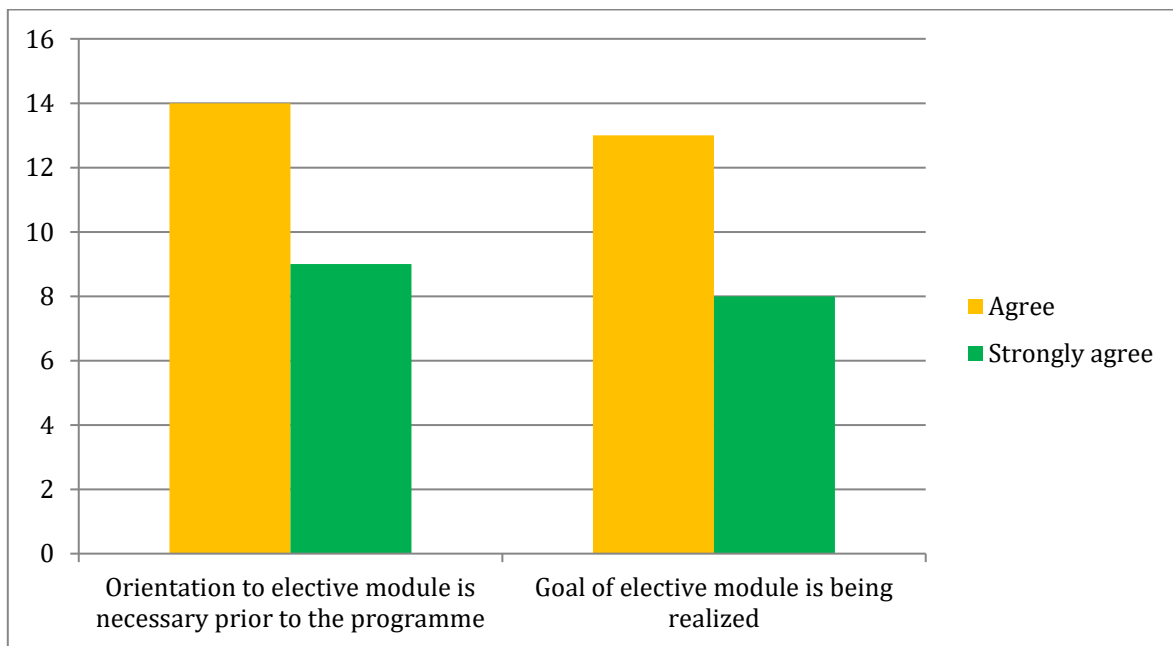
GENDER FREQUENCY (STUDENTS)

Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)
Female	17	70.8
Male	7	29.2
Total	24	100.0

PERCEPTIONS OF STUDENTS STUDENTS DATA ANALYSIS



STUDENTS' OPINION ON ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



GENDER FREQUENCY (FACULTY)

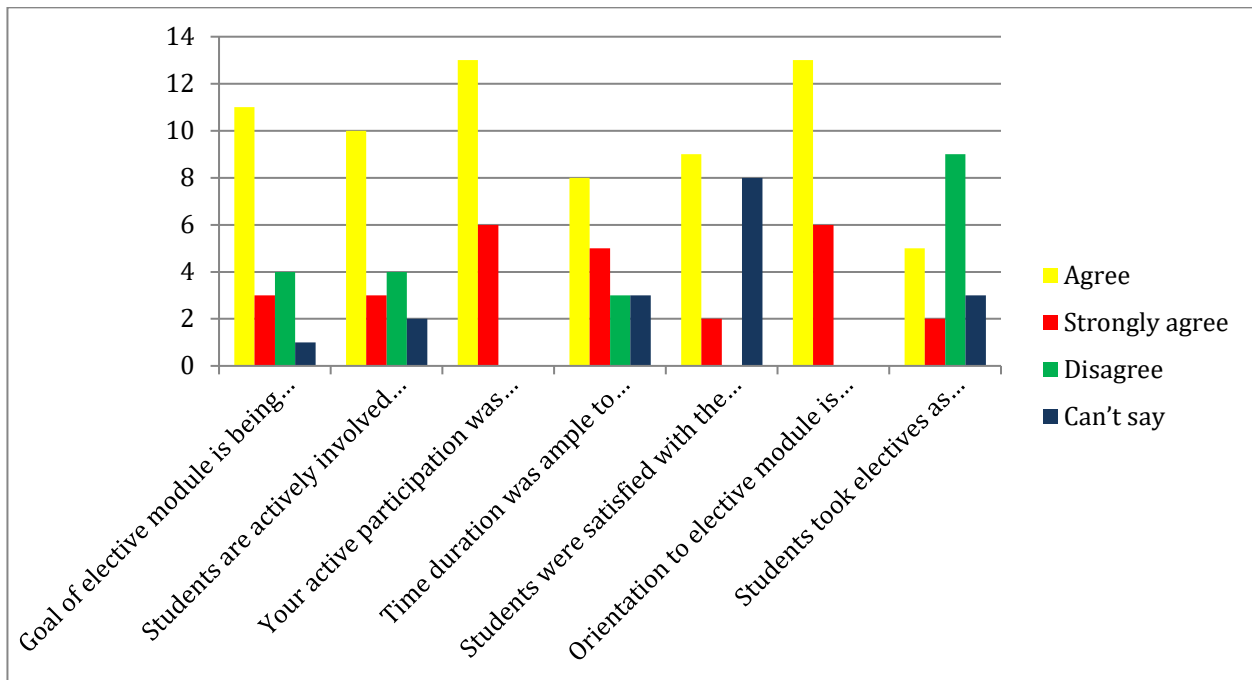
Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)
Female	9	47.4
Male	10	52.6
Total	19	100.0

Perceptions	Agree	Strongly agree	Disagree	Can't say
Goal of elective module is being realized	11 (57.9)	3 (15.8)	4 (21.1)	1 (5.3)
Students are actively involved instead of being mere spectators	10 (52.6)	3 (15.8)	4 (21.1)	2 (10.5)
Your active participation was there in electives	13 (68.4)	6 (31.6)	0	0
Time duration was ample to achieve the teaching process	8 (42.1)	5 (26.3)	3 (15.8)	3 (15.8)
Students were satisfied with the learning process of project	9 (47.4)	2 (10.5)	0	8 (42.1)
Orientation to elective module is necessary for students prior to the programme	13 (68.4)	6 (31.6)	0	0
Students took electives as wastage of time and were not interested in learning	5 (26.3)	2 (10.5)	9 (47.4)	3 (15.8)

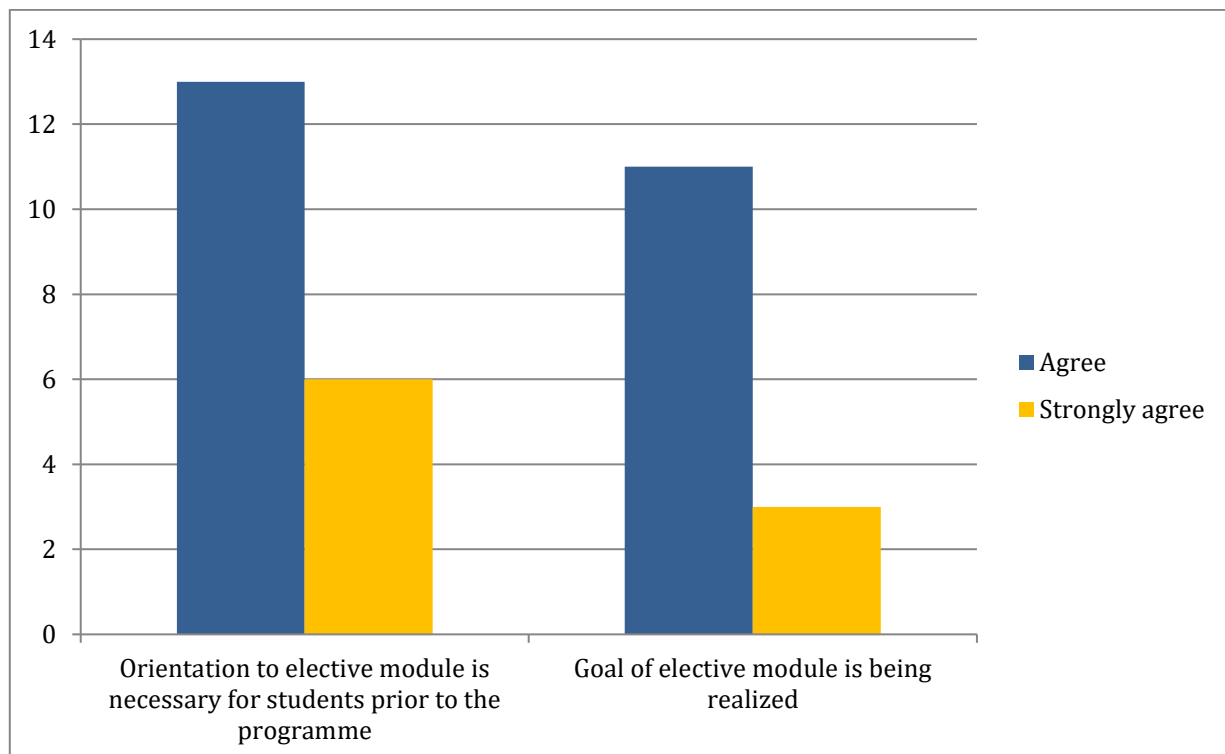
PERCEPTIONS OF FACULTY



DATA ANALYSIS OF FACULTY



OPINION OF FACULTIES ON ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



DISCUSSION

As per NMC guidelines the elective programme was accepted and implemented in our institute under the guidance of our Dean Sir and MEU Co-Ordinator for the batch 2019. However, it was observed that many

of the faculties were not aware of actual mode of learning and proper way initializing the programme and consequently students were not able to take benefit of the elective. In 2nd cycle with batch 2020 though most faculty have an optimistic perception and many of them have successfully completed it but, they have an opinion that an orientation/sensitization programme must be there prior to the implementation. A similar thought was suggested by a significant number of students.

There were challenges faced by faculties like taking out time especially for the electives and shortage of ample number of staff to successfully implement the programme. Also signing of the logbooks of students related to various electives. Most of the students and faculty have accepted electives as a mean of improvement of skill, in depth of knowledge regarding a particular specialty.

These invaluable inputs recommend for future refinement in implementation of electives and thus taking 100% benefit of this way of teaching students and facilitating them regarding different subjects of medical curriculum.

CONCLUSION

Electives have been an important part of undergraduate medical curriculum in western medical universities and now constitute a mandatory part medical curriculum in our country as well. The successful implementation programme needs equal participation by preceptors as well as students and prior sensitization and motivation of both especially students who are unaware of such activity till 3rd phase.

As due to small sample size and short duration of study, further research on a broader aspect and involving multiple institutes is must to generalize the overall outcome and impact.

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