

"The role of technology and teachers for Self-directed learning"

Abstract:

The role of the teacher is ranged from being a knowledge sharer to a facilitator to evaluator/assessor to mentor/ guide up to a transformer to revolutionize the learner towards the path of lifelong learning. Self-directed learning (SDL) is one of the important manners by which students would be motivated for moving towards the continuous learning process. As per Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) for undergraduate medical students, National Medical Commission (NMC) in India has allocated specific hours for SDL in each course. The present pandemic state has motivated teachers to introduce technology for conducting SDL sessions. Students, via online facility, have the flexibility of deciding when, how and what content and activities they would like to be engaged in, keeping the teacher, as a facilitator, in their circle. This flexibility needs to be monitored and evaluated, by the facilitator, to identify the attainment of specific learning contexts by the learner. The students need to be driven for considerable impact on their attitude and learning behavior. The role of facilitator, for online SDL sessions, increases multifold, in terms of keeping track of student learning within the group, and helping the group to explore interpersonal relationships and ability of self-monitoring. The usage of technology during SDL sessions for undergraduate medical education is to retrieve information from different sources, authenticate it, initially under the supervision of the facilitator, finally utilize it to accomplish their learning outcome. The approach of teacher-guided online SDL would provide an opportunity to students for attaining skills related to search strategies, technology, virtual group dynamics, leadership, conflict management, and critical thinking for cognitive gain.