

AM I IN A VIRTUAL MEDICAL SCHOOL? - FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS REFLECTING ON ONLINE EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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BACKGROUND:

Universiti Malaya implemented full virtual teaching and learning activities for Year 1 students to avoid deferment in their studies. Subsequently, Year 1 students had no physical orientation week and did not have the opportunity to experience study life on campus. These disruptions might have caused mismatch in their expectations and confusion as budding medical students



SUMMARY OF WORK:

At the end of Year 1, students performed a written reflection on their learning experience, guided by Kolb's reflective cycle (i.e. experience, reflect, conceptualise, apply). They described either a good or bad experience, expressed feelings, indicated lessons learnt, and suggested implications to begin Year 2 with.



RESULTS:

The analysis showed that students were juggling to balance their studies and life at the same time. Whereas, some of them were grateful for the opportunity to enjoy solitudes in the comfort of being at their own home. The most common feedback was they felt unmotivated and lost focus as a possible result of being away from campus



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION:

As online teaching and learning continued, some of them drifted in anxiety and FOMO (Fear of missing out). Hence, these students were adapting a complete virtual campus as Year 1 medical students. The plan is for Year 1 students to obtain online COVID Preparedness Certificate (CPC) before they are allowed to come back to the physical campus in continuing their medical studies.



TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

During pandemic, we found that this is a more effective option for students, and it's also better for the environment.