Author's reply

Dear Editor,

It is a matter of fact that in majority of classrooms, the teacher possesses authority, both in terms of having the power to direct the classroom activities and in the sense of having the knowledge that the students need to acquire.[1,2] Morality and power are inherent in the exercise of this authority. In fact, the process of education is fundamentally moral in nature. From the teacher’s point of view, teaching involves constant and complex moral decision-making.[3] However, the fact is that it is the ability to communicate worthwhile understanding rather than his or her moral integrity or the nature of his or her personal interactions that lies at the heart of teaching.[4]

A simplistic view sees this teacher power as a bad thing. Over the last few years, there have been efforts to minimize the role of authority in the process of teaching.[5] E-learning is, in fact, a step toward more independent and active learning. The teacher devolves responsibility to students, giving them responsibility to participate effectively. Learners have control over the content, learning sequence and pace of learning allowing the learners to meet their personal learning objectives be it to gain knowledge or to pass examinations with ease.[5]

In this study, the feedback was taken after the students had completed their term in Ophthalmology and were in the eighth term, so there was no reason for response bias and hence the need for blinding was not felt.

The fact that an educational campus is Wi-Fi enabled implies that the management encourages the use of the internet for the purpose of education. In this sense, the study was supported by the management in every way technical, financial and administrative apart from ethical clearance.

Seema Dutt Bandhu, Swati Raje
Department of Ophthalmology and Community Medicine, MIMER Medical College, Talegaon Dabhade, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Correspondence to: Dr. Seema Dutt Bandhu, 118, Tulip, Parmar Garden, Wanowrie, Pune - 411 040, Maharashtra, India. E-mail: seemabandhu2000@yahoo.co.in

References

1. Bandhu SD, Raje S. Experiences with E-learning in ophthalmology. Indian J Ophthalmol 2014;62:792-4.
2. Bullough RV Jr. Ethical and moral matters in teaching and teacher education. Teach Teach Educ 2011;27:21-8.
3. Buzzelli C, Johnston B. Authority, power, and morality in classroom discourse. Teach Teach Educ 2001;17:873-84.
4. Barrow R. Is teaching an essentially moral enterprise? Teach Teach Educ 1992;8:105-8.
5. Chodorow S. Educators must take the electronic revolution seriously. Acad Med 1996;71:221-6.

Access this article online
Quick Response Code:
Website: www.ijo.in