

Challenges and Barriers of E-Learning in Medical Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic from the Viewpoint of Teaching Staff

Ahmed Abdalla Jarelnape, Ph.D* Suaad Omer, Ph.D* Mohamed Hassan, MSc* Aida Fadlala, Ph.D* Zeinab Ali, Ph.D* Neimat Dinar, Ph.D* Mujtaba Ali, MD** Khalid Mohammed, MD**, Yahya Hussein Abdalla, Ph.D. **** Eltayeb Abdelazeem, Ph.D*** Elwaleed I. Sagiron, Ph.D**** Hamza Balola, Ph.D***** Mohammed Mustafa, Ph.D*****

ABSTRACT

Introduction: E-learning in medical education during the COVID-19 pandemic presents challenges for teaching staff, including technical skills, limited access to technology, and difficulty in practical sessions and clinical rotations.

Objectives: This study aims to explore the challenges and barriers of e-Learning in medical education during the COVID-19 pandemic experienced by teaching staff.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted with the teaching staff at Al-Ghad International Colleges for Applied Medical Sciences, Saudi Arabia, during the COVID-19 pandemic. An online questionnaire to collect data; 104 participants responded to the questionnaire. The data were analyzed using (SPSS version 24).

Results: The findings of this study showed that the challenges faced by the teaching staff included organizational factors, such as a lack of internet services (51% agree versus 38.5% disagree), a lack of data confidentiality (76% agree versus 24.1% disagree), and a lack of education platform technical skills (6.7% agree versus 90.4% disagree). The second reported challenge was related to the student evaluation mechanisms, such as a lack of monitoring the progress of skills (86.5% agree and 4.8% disagree) and a lack of performing practical skills (93.3% versus 0 disagree). The third challenge was related to the educational platform, with 86.5% agreeing that there is a lack of monitoring of the progress of the skills domain, 70.2% agreeing there is ineffective communication, and 86.4% agreeing that there is weak active interaction.

Conclusions: Our study found three main challenges of e-learning experienced by the teaching staff during the spread of the pandemic: organizational factors, student evaluation mechanisms, and educational platforms. These challenges have been experienced during the transition to e-learning.

Keywords: E-learning, COVID-19, Challenges, Barriers, Saudi Arabia

Bahrain Med Bull 2024; 46 (1): 1843 - 1847

* Department of Nursing, Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences
Al-Baha University, Saudi Arabia.
E-mail: ahmedjaranbi@bu.edu.sa or ahmed3636@live.com

** Faculty of Medicine
Al-Baha University, Saudi Arabia.

*** Department of Nursing
College of Applied Medical Sciences, University of Bisha, Saudi Arabia.

**** Department of Community and Mental Health
Najran University, Najran, Saudi Arabia.

***** Department of Community
Batterjee Medical College, Khamis Mushait, Saudi Arabia

***** Department of Community
Buraydah Private Colleges, Applied Medical Sciences, Saudi Arabia.