

Third Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic: Three "Sacrificed" Batches of Anatomy Students

Anjali Singal*

Department of Anatomy, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bathinda, India

***Corresponding Author:** Anjali Singal, Department of Anatomy, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bathinda, India.

Received: August 17, 2022

Published: August 29, 2022

© All rights are reserved by **Anjali Singal**.

Abstract

Anatomy education is not the same as it was before the outbreak of pandemic. The wave three of COVID-19 had impact on the education of consecutive third batch of Anatomy students. All the three batches had been affected in their own way and at different times in their first academic year. Waves of pandemic will come and go, but they will leave an irretrievable impression concerning the loss of Anatomy students. Un-doubtedly the best alternative modes are being used to deliver anatomy education, but the real practice on "donated bodies to science" is missing. If possible, whenever the students are in campus, the short dissection course in between their second or third year academics or during their surgery posting should be planned. The other best promising way to compensate the loss in anatomy education of these undergraduate students, is by providing the supreme platform during their post-graduation program especially to surgeons and anatomists.

Keywords: Anatomy Education; "Donated Bodies to Science"; COVID-19; Third Wave

Since the onset of novel Coronavirus, the world has passed through two disastrous COVID waves. The emergence of Omicron variant in December 2021 was a global concern as there was sudden surge in number of COVID-19 cases in early January 2022 and it was the third COVID wave. Though the severity of disease was less, but it was more contagious this time. The major impact of the pandemic is on health and education system. To deal with the impending third wave of COVID-19, the education system including medical, had been shifted to virtual mode again. Undoubtedly every professional course especially where skill matters, is being adversely affected by the pandemic, and the medical career "the profession which is unswervingly concerned with the human life" is on the topmost of the list.

Impact of COVID-19 on consecutive three batches of Anatomy students

Anatomy education is not the same as it was before the outbreak of pandemic. The third wave of COVID-19 had impact on the

education of consecutive third batch of Anatomy students. All these batches had been affected in their own way and at different times in their first academic year. The first wave of pandemic affected the anatomy education of students almost half way of their academic year in 2020. The next batch of Anatomy students, bear the impact of second wave on their traditional physical classes, labs and as the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic hit, the exams of this batch had to be postponed at some universities. This time, the pandemic had impact on the education of third batch of Anatomy students too, who were about to join the medical college, after cracking the entrance examination. The craze for Anatomy learning expressly for dissection is astounding when a medical student enters the professional college. The knowledge of the subject gained in the dissection hall, the stories and memories created here, is life long experience. Waves of pandemic will come and go, but they will leave an irretrievable impression concerning the loss of Anatomy students. Anatomists always wished to add novel digital teaching ways in Anatomy education, but complete evaporation of dissection labs and Histology labs was never a plan.

Though unnerving experience of medical students digging their scalpel through the "donated bodies to science" is missing and virtual Anatomy teaching method has its own shortcomings, but it cannot be put on halt. No one has time to wait for the normal pandemic free world to start with "A" of Anatomy, for traditional classes. It is not only the medical students, but also dental, nursing, physiotherapist and all other health profession students have been affected. Thus, the new generation of budding doctors and other health profession students must be educated, otherwise there will be shortage of health professionals in near future and the human-kind do not afford so.

Proposed alternatives and compensation plans

Anatomy is the subject in first year of every graduate medical course, anatomists have opportunity to compensate the loss during proceeding years. As these batches of students are still in their graduation years in medical colleges, some short term programs especially dissection course or pro-section study sessions, as per set-up, may be organized in between their academic training during second or third years. At the same time, the Anatomy faculty should be well equipped with best digital methods, especially 3D oriented for practical learning, for Anatomy learners, if the situation of uncertainty like pandemic or war ensues in future.

The other best promising way to compensate the loss in anatomy education of these undergraduate students, is by providing the supreme platform during their post-graduation program especially to surgeons and anatomists. A compulsory short training program and assessment exam for Anatomy may be added in postgraduate curriculum of Surgery.

Conflict of Interest

Nil.