

## PERCEPTION OF FINAL MBBS PART-II STUDENTS TOWARDS ELECTIVES.

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**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** An elective is a learning experience created in the curriculum to provide an opportunity for the learner to explore, discover and experience areas or streams interest in the profession. The study aims to understand the thoughts and approaches of electives, perception of academic interests and how these courses shape academic focus & offer career insights. **Materials and Methods:** A observational cross sectional study was conducted among 280 students of final MBBS Phase 3 part 2 of Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences – class of 2020 & 2021 for duration of 2 months. **Result:** More than 70 percent of participants expressed that elective postings was effective in learning objectives. More than 95 percent of students expressed that elective posting helped in developing new skills, had fair assessment and recommended for their peers. **Conclusion:** Students found this elective Posting to be very interesting and engaging with an overall satisfaction. It helped them to identify their academic interest for choosing future specialty branch.

**INTRODUCTION**

An Elective is a learning experience created in the curriculum to provide an opportunity for the learner to explore, discover and experience areas or streams interest in the profession. Two months are designated for elective rotations after completion of the examination at end of the third MBBS Part I and before commencement of third MBBS Part II. It is mandatory for learners to do an elective in block 1 and block 2. Block 1-preclinical & para clinical subjects, Block 2-clinical subjects.

It is necessary to get a taste of their future career through Electives. We aim to know the thoughts and approach induced by electives and the way how they perceived for their academic interests and how these courses shape academic focus and provide insights into potential career paths.<sup>[1]</sup>

The elective course has many valuable perspectives and is universally well-received by students. The clinical elective course aids most undergraduate students in gaining clear insight into their future postgraduate specialty. It allows medical students to engage in clinical practice and apply their knowledge.<sup>[2]</sup> Likewise Preclinical and Para clinical subjects give an insight into their future post-graduation in this specialty to become subject expert.

Electives provide many benefits to medical students, but not all students get the same experience. Moreover, student feedback, struggles, and drawbacks have not been evaluated. Therefore, this study attempts to understand student preferences, including their preferred specialties, and to assess the general satisfaction with elective course experience. It helps to have a clearer account of the advantages and disadvantages of this course to make a baseline for future improvement.<sup>[2]</sup>

The effectiveness of the elective course was measured across many universities, which showed significant benefits. Additionally, in these studies, students had the opportunity to identify defects that might be reconsidered.<sup>[2]</sup> Therefore, here in RIMS, India, we have tried to take the students' perceptions and project into this study to give us a chance to improvise and adapt.

**Objectives**

1. To assess the thoughts and approach induced by the Electives
2. To assess the Perception of electives towards development of academic interest of choice
3. To study the insight through feedback for further improvement

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A observational cross sectional study was conducted among 280 students of final MBBS Phase 3 part 2 of Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences – class of 2020 & 2021 for duration of 2 months. Among the students of MBBS part 2, the students who participated in this study were assessed using an online questionnaire survey in English that included quantitative questions and qualitative questions. The link to the questionnaire was distributed to student medical groups using Google services. A class of 2020 & 2021 batch medical students were invited to participate in this survey.

Informed consent from each respondent was obtained before proceeding with the questionnaire.

Ethical Clearance taken.

Data Collection- Through Google form, Questionnaire format Statistical Analysis; This can be expressed in terms of percentage using Likert scale-measures of

Central tendency like mean, median, and mode, measures of dispersion interquartile range, standard deviation and variants.

### Inclusion Criteria

Participants > 20 years old

### Exclusion Criteria

Participants not giving consent for study

## RESULTS

More than 70 percent of participants expressed that elective postings was effective in learning objectives, relevant for future goals, provided active learning through discussion, had adequate opportunities for hands on clinical work, and their overall satisfaction. This agrees to the study objectives.

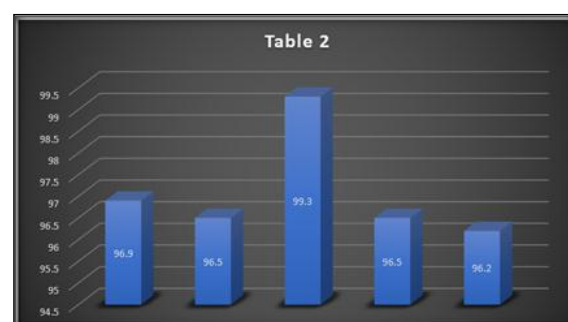
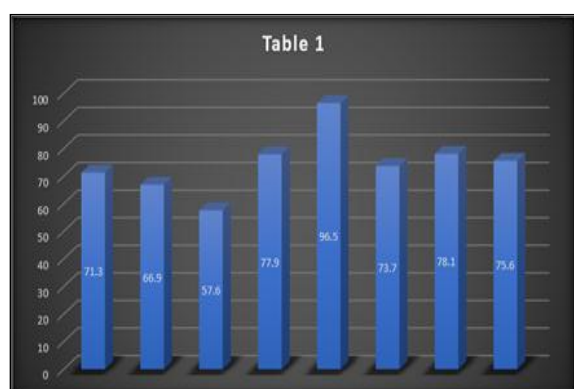
More than 70 percent of students expressed that elective posting helped in developing new skills, had fair assessment and recommended for their peers. Thoughts & approach induced by the Electives & Perception of electives towards development of academic interest of choice were assessed.

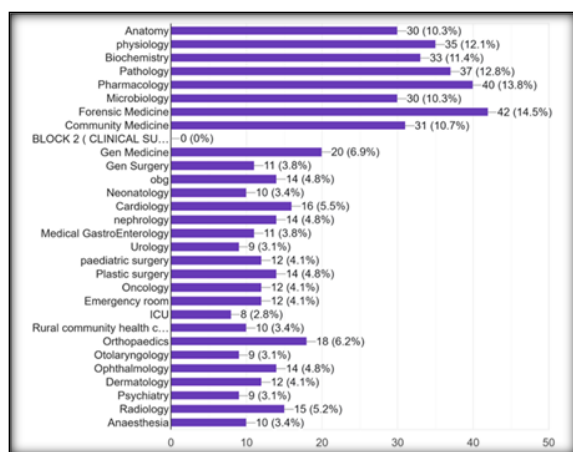
**Table 1**

SL no	Results	Percentage
1	Elective postings was effective in learning objectives	71.3
2	Elective postings was relevant for future career goals	66.9
3	Elective postings helped in choosing super speciality	57.6
4	Elective postings helped to deal with different working environment	77.9
5	The quality of teaching was good	96.5
6	Adequate opportunities for hands on clinical work was given	73.7
7	Elective postings provided active learning through discussion	78.1
8	I was overall satisfied with Elective postings	75.6

**Table 2**

SI No	Table 2 results	Yes (%)
1	Elective posting helped in developing new skills	96.9
2	I had supervision during clinical postings	96.5
3	Assessment was fair and transparent	99.3
4	Received constructive feedback from faculty	96.5
5	Recommend Elective posting for your peers	96.2





## DISCUSSION

An Elective is a learning experience created in the curriculum to provide an opportunity for the learner to explore, discover and experience areas or streams of interest in the profession.

When it comes to teaching-learning effectiveness, there is no single approach that best fits all students. Thus, there is a pressing need to adjust teaching/learning experience to each student, which justifies the existence of electives in curriculum. Hence, we felt the need to evaluate whether students were satisfied with the variety and the quality of the electives offered.<sup>[3]</sup>

Lately, academic institutions have devoted an increasing amount of time and effort in developing tools that collect students' feedback about their educational satisfaction. This feedback is twofold: providing both the opportunity for students to express satisfaction with their educative experience and the possibility for the organization to use and process this information for improving the teaching/learning experience.<sup>[4]</sup>

The study assessed the perceptions of final-year MBBS students regarding elective postings and their influence on academic interests, career choices, and skill development. The results indicate that these objectives were largely met, with the majority of students expressing a positive outlook on their elective experiences.<sup>[5]</sup>

The ranking of the allocated elective in their list of preferences was variable.

The most preferred elective was forensic medicine, followed by pharmacology. In total, 280 students participated. More than 70 percent of students expressed that adequate hands-on learning was given and had adequate learning through discussion. More than 70% of the participants reported that the elective postings were effective in achieving learning objectives, relevant for their future career goals, and provided active learning opportunities through discussions and hands-on clinical exposure. This highlights the importance of electives in fostering self-directed learning and enhancing clinical competencies. The study also revealed that elective postings played a significant role in helping students make informed

decisions about their future specialties, with 57.6% of participants stating that electives influenced their choice of super-specialization. Furthermore, 77.9% of students felt that electives helped them adapt to different working environments, an essential skill for future medical professionals.

A notable finding of the study was that 96.9% of the students reported developing new skills through elective postings, underscoring their practical value. Additionally, an equal percentage of students affirmed that they had adequate supervision during their clinical postings, and the assessment process was fair and transparent. The high percentage of students (95.5%) who acknowledged receiving constructive feedback from faculty further highlights the supportive learning environment created during electives. Such feedback is crucial for students' professional growth, as it allows them to identify their strengths and areas for improvement.

Despite the overwhelmingly positive feedback, there were some areas that warrant attention. While 65.9% of students rated the quality of teaching as good, this percentage suggests that there is room for improvement in faculty engagement and teaching methodologies. Ensuring that all students receive high-quality instruction and mentorship is essential for maximizing the benefits of electives. Further, although 78.1% of students acknowledged that electives provided active learning through discussion, efforts could be made to further enhance interactive learning strategies.

The findings of this study align with previous research, which suggests that elective postings improve student satisfaction, enhance learning outcomes, and provide meaningful career insights. The elective program at Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences appears to be well-structured and beneficial, offering students valuable clinical exposure and decision-making experiences. However, continuous feedback from students should be incorporated to refine and enhance the structure of elective postings.

## CONCLUSION

This study confirms that electives play a pivotal role in medical education by equipping students with essential clinical skills, exposing them to various specialties, and helping them make informed career decisions. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants indicates that the current elective framework is effective, but there is potential for further improvements in faculty training, teaching methodologies, and interactive learning approaches. Moving forward, elective programs should aim to provide even more hands-on experience, interdisciplinary learning opportunities, and structured mentorship to further enrich medical education and professional development.

Students found this elective Posting to be very interesting and engaging with an overall satisfaction. It helped them to identify their academic interest for

choosing future specialty branch. It gave them insight for future career through hands on, discussion and constructive feedback from faculty.

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