

Transect Walk: A Tool to Aid the Process of Designing and Delivery of Context-Specific Medical Curriculum

Dear Editor,

The medical curriculum for implementation in any nation is designed considering multiple aspects. It becomes the responsibility of the local administrators/medical educators to set it to the specific local needs of the community where the institution is located.^[1,2] Participatory rural appraisal methods are the qualitative and cost-effective approaches to involve the rural community in identifying problems and finding potential solutions, thereby empowering them.

Transect walk is one of the participatory rural appraisal techniques, wherein there is a systematic walk along a pre-defined path either in the community or the study area with local people to identify important infrastructures, resources, welfare measures, or services.^[3] During this walk across the village, students should utilize the opportunity to interact with local villagers and identify common health concerns and problems they face. It is a simple tool to implement at the community level, and medical students can be involved in carrying out with local people as part of community exposure.^[3,4] The transect walk provides vital information about the cause-and-effect associations between the presence of resources, human habitation, the important problems in the area, the prevalent local customs, and the potential opportunities.^[3,4]

The goal of medical education is to produce competent medical graduates, and the transect walk can aid in achieving this by sensitizing medical students to local customs and issues.^[3,4] Depending on the magnitude of the problem, the medical curriculum can be revised at the Board of Studies meeting and implemented as a context-specific curriculum for subsequent batches of medical students. For instance, if a specific area is endemic for lymphatic filariasis or worm infestations, specific learning competencies can be introduced in the curriculum to deepen students' understanding of these topics.

To conclude, the success of medical institutions in producing competent medical graduates significantly depends on the delivery of a context-specific curriculum. The tool of transect walk can be utilized to understand local problems in the region, and medical students can be accordingly trained in specific learning competencies, thereby improving healthcare delivery in the region.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**Saurabh RamBihariLal Shrivastava^{1,2},
Prateek Sudhakar Bobhate³,
Jagadish Makade², Vaishnavi Mishra⁴**

¹Deputy Director (Research and Development), Off Campus, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Datta Meghe Medical College, Wanadongri, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, ²Department of Community Medicine, Datta Meghe Medical College, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Wanadongri, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, ³Department of Community Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Vijaypur, Jammu, India, ⁴Department of Microbiology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Sawangi, Wardha, Maharashtra, India

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Saurabh RamBihariLal Shrivastava,
Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Datta Meghe Medical College, Off-campus Centre of Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Hingna Road, Wanadongri, Nagpur - 441 110, Maharashtra, India.
E-mail: drshrishri2008@gmail.com

References

- Toosi M, Modarres M, Amini M, Geranmayeh M. Context, input, process, and product evaluation model in medical education: A systematic review. *J Educ Health Promot* 2021;10:199.
- Berkhout JJ, Helmich E, Teunissen PW, van der Vleuten CPM, Jaarsma ADC. Context matters when striving to promote active and lifelong learning in medical education. *Med Educ* 2018;52:34-44.
- ParCitypatory. Participatory Methods: Transect Walks; 2017. Available from: <https://parcitypatory.org/2017/10/29/transect-walks/>. [Last accessed on 2023 Nov 29].
- Dongre AR, Deshmukh PR, Garg BS. Using the 'transect walk' as a public health teaching and learning tool. *Med Educ* 2009;43:1093-4.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:

<https://journals.lww.com/jnmr>

DOI:

10.4103/ijnmr.ijnmr_326_23

How to cite this article: Shrivastava SR, Bobhate PS, Makade J, Mishra V. Transect walk: A tool to aid the process of designing and delivery of context-specific medical curriculum. *Iran J Nurs Midwifery Res* 2024;29:635.

Submitted: 22-Oct-2023. **Revised:** 28-Apr-2024.

Accepted: 21-May-2024. **Published:** 04-Sep-2024.

© 2024 Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow