

From Zoom class to Ward class

Geekyanage UKA

Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.

*Correspondence to- Geekyanage UKA, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Kelaniya,
E-mail: umangageekyanage@yahoo.com*

From joining in pyjamas to classes held online on Zoom (without the usual friend at the side in the lecture hall to disturb your lovely nap with a rude jab from the pen), to going to the ward, clad in scrubs, notebook in hand, there's a world of difference in the learning experience.

What I gained

First thing I noticed was that my level of understanding of subject matter greatly improved. Also, when reading up on a topic, it was easier to grasp on the concepts that I have practically seen and come across. Revisiting lecture notes, I started noticing important points that I had overlooked previously.

But most importantly, what I noticed was how interested I got about learning. Compared to when listening to a lecture, there wasn't much coaxing necessary to get us to refer books and read-up. We did it, not because we were forced to but because we wanted to, on our own accord. With the luxury of owning a smartphone, we could check up on things at the bed-side.

In Prof. Kemal Deen's session on "How to Build an Inquisitive Mind", he stressed the importance of asking the question 'Why?'. Reflecting back on the few weeks of clinical training we had so far, I learnt most on the occasions I questioned the reason behind the things that I came across.

Reflection on the experiences in wards

As we all are aware, sometimes certain mishaps happen in the health care system and patients pay the price with their lives. With regards to this, a question that I have heard many times before pops into my head, "would you treat this patient the same way if they were your own mother or father?"

While death being inevitable is common knowledge, the effect of passing on of a patient that you talked to, cared for, can be surprisingly strong, bringing some of us to tears. I sincerely hope that seeing similar devastating situations regularly won't make us numb to the pain of others, but in contrast, make us more empathetic.

Lastly, I would like to add how much I appreciate the cooperation of the patients, when we go bother them, asking a ton of questions and examining them, when they are not feeling their best. Their kindness motivates me to learn better and to make sure that no harm is done, even though I cannot do much.