



## Influence of teachers position during lecturing sessions for health science students

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### Abstract

Teaching can be defined as complex, multifaceted, value-laden enterprisers against the global backdrop of the knowledge society. Effective teaching and good teaching are personal matters. Effectiveness in teaching is always concerned with student as a person and his general development. The purpose of the study is to identify the teacher's position. Descriptive study design was conducted with survey method. Study was conducted in a health science college campus; 632 students were participated in the survey. A total of 632 questionnaires were distributed, collected and taken for analysis. Questionnaires which are incomplete, not filled and not legibly marked were ruled out for the analysis, finally a total of 521 questionnaires were selected for analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze these data. The results were analyzed by cross tabulation method and the result for position of the teacher during class, shows 73.70% were standing, 20.92% were sitting and 5.3 were crouching (standing to one side mostly near the laptop). Position of the teacher in which students preferred were, shows 42.61% prefers standing, 9.79% prefers sitting and 47.60% prefers moving around the class while teaching. Hence this study concludes that students like standing rather than other position and surprisingly most of the students like their teachers moving around while taking classes.

**Keywords:** teacher position, students opinion, lecturing, health science students

### Introduction

Teacher is a key educator in a student's life. Teacher's role differs in various subjects. Teaching is a highly complex activity <sup>[1]</sup>. It can be defined as complex, multifaceted, value-laden enterprisers against the global backdrop of the knowledgeable society <sup>[2]</sup>. Teacher being the focal figure in education must be competent and knowledgeable in order to impart the knowledge they could give to their students <sup>[3]</sup>. Effective teaching and good teaching are personal matters; effectiveness in teaching is always concerned with student as a person and his general development.

Many evidences found that the style of teaching has lot of influence on student achievements and learning <sup>[4]</sup>. Teaching positions were also receiving considerable degree of attention within the educational literature over the past decades. Teachers who continually review their perceptions and their supporting basics increase their ability to communicate properly with wide variety of students <sup>[5]</sup>.

Effectiveness of teacher can be adjudged by how successful, how productive and how imparting knowledge to the students <sup>[6]</sup>. Effective teacher are so diverse and use the resources well. Teacher should plan to engage the students and promote more learning opportunity to the students which will be helpful in managing the students' academic performance <sup>[7]</sup>. Being an effective teacher what is the optimal position of the teacher is the study question raised.

A mixture of information on teacher position during lecturing was discussed in the literatures. Common positions adopted by the teachers are standing, sitting and crouching. Standing is the traditional way of teaching where a teacher stands in front of the students and takes class. Sitting is a means of teaching where the teacher comfortably sits in front of the students and lecturing the sessions. Crouching is a method of teaching where teacher can stand near the computer or laptop or sometimes the teacher can stand

behind the class and gives lecturing where the students couldn't see the teacher whereas hear only voice.

Few studies showed that how the teacher positions themselves in the classroom shows a message to the students. It clearly tells the students what they have to do <sup>[8]</sup>. Teacher position in the classroom will alter the student behaviors. Teacher should plan their position prior to teaching and to make effective use of time <sup>[9]</sup>. The purpose of this study is to identify the common teaching position and the secondary identification is to identify the teaching position of choice by students in health science.

### Methodology

Descriptive study design was conducted with survey method. Study submitted to the Institutional Ethical Committee and obtained permission. Study was conducted in a health science college campus; approximately 632 students were participated in the survey. Self designed questionnaire was given to all the participants. Questionnaire consists of two parts, part I consisted of subjective information of the students including gender, class of study and field of study and part II has closed ended questions which target on the teachers position and the class taking abilities and creating interesting in subject. Request letter was given to the Dean of the institution to obtain permission. Once the permission obtained every class room was selected and the questionnaires were distributed to the students who were willing. Consent was obtained from the participants and a clear explanation was given to all the participants about the objective of the study. Thirty minutes was given to the students to fill up the questionnaire, instruction was given to all students not to disclose the questionnaire with their others classmates. Once the questionnaire was collected thank you card was given to all the participants. A total of 632 questionnaires were

distributed, collected and taken for analysis. Questionnaires which are incomplete, not filled and not legibly marked were ruled out for the analysis, finally a total of 521 questionnaires were selected for analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data which are collected.

**Result**

The results were analyzed by cross tabulation method in Microsoft Excel 2010. Table I shows the analyses of the teachers position during lecturing, among 521 subjects the result shows 73.70% were standing, 20.92% were sitting and 5.3 were crouching (standing to one side mostly near the laptop). Table II Shows the analyses of the student’s preferences on the teaching position, among 521 subjects the result shows 42.61% prefers standing, 9.79% prefers sitting and 47.60% prefers moving around the class while teaching.

**Table 1:** Students preference for teachers position

Standing	222	42.61%
Sitting	51	9.79%
Moving Around	248	47.60%
	521	100

**Table 2:** Position of the teacher while teaching

Standing	384	73.70%
Sitting	109	20.92%
Crouching	28	5.37%
	521	100

**Discussion**

Teacher’s position in the class room is much essential part of teaching. Many young teachers are less mindful about their position in the classroom. This study tries to identify the effective position of teacher by conducting a survey with the students.

Teacher’s position is very important since it shows a message about what the teachers want to convey to the students [8]. Bertrand [10] describes that positioning the teacher in the right place and making correct gestures will help teacher to minimize or solve the problems of grabbing attention, managing and controlling the students.

According to the results of this study most of the teacher’s position was standing while teaching 73%, sitting while teaching 20% and crouching while teaching was 5%. However, while analyzing about the students preference about the position of the teacher, most of students prefers moving around while teaching 47% standing while teaching 42% in which sitting takes least preference with 9%.

Influential teachers would teach their students verbally as well as non verbally (gestures, positioning, looking, so on). Positioning themselves is much needed skill during education. Few articles described that standing teachers produces a strong positive vibrations than the sitting teachers [11]. Position of teachers develops intrinsic motivation to the students for learning, they will establish effective communication with students and also they will be involved in diversification and personalization of learning situation [12].

**Conclusion**

This study concludes that most of the teachers in the health science colleges prefer to stand while taking classes, some of them prefers to sit or crouch. Various analysis and studies

found that standing is the best position in lecturing sessions. On the other hand, the student’s preference about teachers position has been found that standing and moving around was the choice by the majority of the students. This study advises teachers to stand or move around during lecturer hours.

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