

## Emerging Trends in the Assessment of Medical Students

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### ABSTRACT

Every academician wants the students to learn and retain the material they cover and at the same time enjoy learning<sup>2</sup>. Examination is the method to access student knowledge and the Closed-book exam is the most common type of exam conducted to know how well students have learned<sup>2</sup>. Students prefer alternative forms of testing; using crib notes where the students can prepare notes to use on the exam, oral examinations, credit assignments and open-book exams (OBE) etc. are alternative methods<sup>2,3</sup>. The aim of this study is to evaluate what short of assessment students prefer and what short of assessment teacher prefer? Why they prefer these? And also, to know their merits and demerits.

**Keywords:** *Assessment Methods, Open Book Exam, Medical Students, Emerging Trends*

Open book test is students are allowed to take the help of their notes and textbooks and permitted materials while taking the test<sup>1,9</sup>. It is becoming popular among educator because it encourages students to use higher-level thinking skills, causes less stress, discourage rote learning/ mugging, without knowing the meaning, promote long term retention<sup>1,2,4,19,22</sup>. It makes learning process active by encouraging logical thinking. Prepare the student for practical, real-life situations<sup>3</sup>. Study conducted in Norway in 1960 has proved it has many advantages over traditional methods<sup>28</sup>.

In India it was included in 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> standard students to avoid extra hard work in memorizing the concepts and to remove exam tension<sup>4,8</sup>. Study proves that it will get creative knowledge and deep learning<sup>4,11,13</sup>. A comparative study in medical colleges OBE is more helpful than the other methods as the medical knowledge is changing and expanding. It will help for the student to use the knowledge with the help of references<sup>15,16,17</sup>. Student will continue their education rather drooping out<sup>20</sup>.

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## Emerging Trends in the Assessment of Medical Students

Group of experienced teachers believe that OBE has considerable potential for changing and improving the traditions of assessment and the learning environment<sup>9</sup>. It is known fact that student cheat in traditional exam which can be avoided in OBE<sup>18</sup>. In addition, it increases the student satisfaction<sup>27</sup>.

It has its Disadvantages also. Some experts argue that open book test may discourage more study/provide less study motivation<sup>22</sup>. And lower score in academically strong students<sup>2</sup>. Student may demand it at all level<sup>4</sup> teaching and testing were designed for closed-book examination<sup>22, 24</sup>; does not always result in higher achievement in students<sup>22</sup>

But in fact, study proves that student needs to prepare more form OBE<sup>11,17</sup>. Student was more attentive in lecture class to prepare notes and in tutorial discussion<sup>26</sup>.

Some study proved a combined approach could become a more effective in assessing the students<sup>7,21</sup>. Also it shows no significant differences in the average student test scores when comparing open book to closed book tests<sup>10, 26</sup>

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Assessment in medical graduation, opinion of medical college Teachers and students along with dental and engineering students.

#### ***Methodology***

The present study is conducted in the college of medicine, King Faisal University, Al Hassa, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The opinion also compared with dental college students King Faisal University, Al Hassa, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and rural engineering college Hulkoti, India.

Survey was conducted through prepared questionnaire, which will be distributed to students and teaching staff of the college of medicine, King Faisal University. Same question was distributed to the student of dental college King Faisal University, Al Hassa and rural engineering college, Hulkoti India (both of them are not exposed to Open book examinations)

For conducting the survey, a structured survey questionnaire has been designed with a total of 36 questions. All the questions are objective type. Respondents have to tick any one of the answers they prefer; there is also scope to give their feedback for many questions. All questions were framed in simple English so to enable easy understanding and answering without any ambiguity

The survey will be based on 100 respondents, including both students and teachers. It is observed that both teachers and students would give their independent opinion; there is no provision for discussion while answering the questionnaire. Once done, questionnaires will be collected; the answers will be subjected to statistical analysis. Interpretation will be done based on the statistical data for each question.

For the secondary information, information pertaining to the similar type of study already reported/published will be collected from various sources like journals, articles (print and online).

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Information gathered from these sources will help me better understand the concepts behind the research subject. By analyzing what different scholars or authors have written on the effectiveness exams, I can interpret the importance of justifying the effectiveness of exams in this changing world. This, in turn, will help me relate to the fact that how different are the views of student and teacher about the effectiveness of exams and how close their point of views are.

### *Research problem and significance*

As the medical knowledge is expanding, there is need of change in assessments also. Exams are the most popular sorts of assessment that has been practiced throughout the world. But there is no uniformity in it. Still a better form of assessment and some modifications can make it a better evaluation system. In the traditional mode of assessment, in which students are allowed to take no notes, books or other reference material into the examination room, relying entirely on their memory. Which are having many disadvantages like encourage mugging" or rote learning<sup>2,6</sup> that increases the stress and burden on students leads to dropout suicides etc.<sup>2</sup> the available assessments are projects, assignments, practical tests, orals, close book exam, open book exams etc.

My research sample includes four groups- The medical Teacher and the medical students of our university. Dental student of our university. Engineering students from India. My research questioner is attached in a separate sheet.

### *Hypothesis*

The effectiveness of exams needed to be justified soon to make the students better educated and to build them for their better future. By conducting the research, I expect to find that exams are no longer the best for assessing students properly and there are other possible ways to evaluate the students. Since the new methods of studies and assessment have been introduced, the position of exams seems quite shaky.

I expect Instead of sticking to exams students will be willing to have a change in the method of assessment, On the other hand, my perception about teacher is they prefer to exams. As they are quite familiar with it and they are both personally and professionally realizing its effectiveness. Since they have spent their whole life following this old method of assessment, supporting the exams from them may not be a big wonder. But I believe they will also recommend some sorts of changes that are needed to understand the depth of real education in a better way. So, I believe there may be a significant difference between the teachers and students view about the effectiveness of exams. But the difference may not be too wide to make people astonished. Eagerness is there to see what type of changes teachers suggest and what changes students suggest and also what is the opinion of different scholars who have huge experience in this field?

## **RESULTS**

### **1. The Aim of our Education It is to learn the skills**

	<b>KFU medical Teachers</b>	<b>KFU medical Students</b>	<b>KFU Dental students</b>	<b>Indian engineering students.</b>
Agree	86.49	76.19	77.27 %	26
Not agree	14.05	07.93	0	22
Neutral	09.46	15.88	22.73	52

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Majority of the teachers and students of KFU Medical, dental and engineering students agree that aim of education is to learn skills.

### 2. Present day syllabus is extensive and difficult for the students.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	37.84	55.56	64.09	27
Not agree	14.05	6.34	04.55	18
Neutral	32.43	38.09	31.82	06

Majority of them also agree that syllabus is extensive and difficult.

### 3. Education must be Enjoyable.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	85.13	80.05	86.36	34
Not agree	07.56	6.34	00.00	8
Neutral	09.46	12.70	13.64	58

Majority opinion is that education must be enjoyable.

### 4. Enjoyable and pleasurable education will retain for long time

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	91.90	68.44	47.86	86
Not agree	01..35	06.34	13.64	02
Neutral	06.76	06.35	00.00	12

Also, they agree that enjoyable education will retain for long time.

### 5. Modification needed in the present teaching and examination system regularly?

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	77.78	81.08	72.73	90
Not agree	03.17	10.81	09.09	00.00
Neutral	19.05	08.11	18.18	10.00

Majority from all the groups are agreeing that modifications are needed in teaching and education regularly.

### 6. Exams are very important in a student life

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	90.54	69.84	45.45	66
Not agree	02.70	14.28	22.73	04
Neutral	06.76	15.88	31.82	30

Most of the Teachers and students give the opinion that Exams are important for student life.

**7. Examinations are most effective in assessing the students' knowledge**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	81.08	50.80	63.64	70
Not agree	05.40	28.57	13.64	18
Neutral	13.51	20.63	22.73	12

Most of them agree Examination will help in assessing the knowledge.

**8. Exams put stress on students**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	89.19	90.47	90.91	66
Not agree	02.70	01.59	04.55	10
Neutral	06.76	07.94	04.55	24

Most of the teacher agree that examination will cause stress to the students.

**10. Most important and common problems has to be covered in the exams.**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	77.78	81.08	72.73	90
Not agree	03.17	10.81	09.09	00.00
Neutral	19.05	08.11	18.18	10.00

**10. They all feel most important and common problems must be concentrated in the exams.**

**11. Students can show their talent more effectively without traditional closed book exams**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	39.19	61.90	63.64	58
Not agree	35.13	15.88	13.64	36
Neutral	25.68	22.22	22.73	06

**12. Majority of teachers as well students feel that students performance can be assessed by methods other than traditional closed book examinations.**

**13. Closed book exam does not help the student to understand the subjects.**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	24..32	19.05	27.27	66
Not agree	62.17	63.48	40.91	06
Neutral	13.51	17.46	31.82	28

Teacher and student feels that closed book exam also help the students. Only engineer student doesn't agree with it.

Indian students says closed book exams is not helping much in assessing. Saudi teachers and students doesn't agree with this.

**9. Parents are putting pressure on students during exams?**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	44.56	31.74	31.82	90
Not agree	17.57	34.92	27.28	00
Neutral	37.84	33.33	40.91	10

9. Teacher agree that parents pressure is there for student for their exams. KFU dental students and Indian engineering students also feels the same. KFU medical students opinion is not much pressure

**14. Questions are distributed before exams also can be additional method of assisting.**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	41.89	61.90	54.54	84
Not agree	28.37	12.69	40.91	00.00
Neutral	29.73	25.40	04.55	16

Giving the questions and conducting the exams after some time also one of the method to assess the student and it will help.

**15. Which method is the best to assess student knowledge?**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
assignments	09.46	04.76	00.00	
Oral presentations	33.78	20.63	18.18	
Exams	39.19	63.49	27.27	
Others	Mix of all	Osce, etc	Combination	

Even though most weightage is given to the examinations. But there is a feeling that overall assessment from internal assessments, and case presentations are better.

**16. Which type of question is best in the exams?**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Essay type	05.41	14.29	09.09	56
Short answer	21.62	28.57	18.18	34
Case study	08.11	09.52	54.55	10
Objective type	12.16	25.40	18.18	00.00
Combinations of all	Problems 66.67	23.81	00.00	00.00

Teachers prefers more problem based questions and students preferred more objective and short answer type of questions. Dental students prefer case studies.

**18. Open books have some merits**

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	71.63	74.13	59.09	82
Not agree	18.92	22.22	00.00	00
Neutral	06.76	03.65	40.91	18

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Most of the teachers and students agree that open book test have some benefits.

### 19. Open book exam questions are different from closed book (regular type of) examination

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	81.08	80.95	27.28	64
Not agree	09.46	06.35	13.64	18
Neutral	09.46	12.70	59.10	18

They also agree that there are some differences between open and close book examination.

### 20. OBE Creates High Order Cognitive Skills.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	64.87	30.16	77.73	64
Not agree	16.22	36.51	00.00	02
Neutral	18.92	33.33	27.27	34

Majority of students and teachers also agree that OBE has create high order cognitive skills.

### 21. Open book exams avoid just mugging, remembering or memorizing

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	71.62	49.21	59.10	76
Not agree	13.52	32.81	4.55	02
Neutral	14.86	26.98	36.36	22

Most of the Teachers and students agree that OBE avoids rote learning and memorizing.

### 22. Open book exam helps the student when they stuck

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	50.00	23.80	36.36	50
Not agree	20.27	47.62	00.00	18
Neutral	29.83	28.57	63.64	32

Teachers opinion is OBE helps the students in the exams when they stuck. But KFU Students doesn't agree with that. Dental and engineering students agree this point.

### 23. Open book exam reduce the exam stress on student

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	50.00	20.64	45.46	26
Not agree	28.38	73.01	09.09	66
Neutral	21.26	06.35	45.45	08

Teachers agree that OBE Reduces the exam stress but KFU students only 20.64% will agree.

### 24. OBE Needs more timing per questions.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	45.95	60.31	54.55	86
Not agree	32.44	20.64	13.64	02
Neutral	21.62	17.46	31.82	12

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Most of the teachers and students are agreeing that OBE needs more timing per questions.

### 25 OBE Needs less study and less preparation.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	33.78	28.57	54.54	58
Not agree	56.76	49.21	13.64	10
Neutral	09.46	23.81	31.82	32

Bothe teachers and students of Medical College agree that OBE study is not less. Bit dental students and engineering student (not exposed to OBE) doesn't agree that.

### 26. Sitting space must be more for OBE

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	63.52	53.97	18.18	62.34
Not agree	12.97	12.70	36.36	00.00
Neutral	25.68	33.33	45.45	04.00

Except KFU Dental students most of medical teachers and students give the opinion exam table must be bigger in OBE.

### 27. Difficult to get referred books in OBE

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	36.48	58.73	45.45	84
Not agree	36.48	11.11	13.64	00
Neutral	27.03	30.16	40.91	16

There is difficulty in getting referred books as per teacher and students.

### 28. Material allowed must be checked properly in open book.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	78.38	53.97	45.46	78
Not agree	09.46	14.29	13.64	04
Neutral	12.16	31.75	40.91	18

Most teachers and students opinion is that During OBE materials allowed must be checked.

### 29. Open book exam needs less study

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
Agree	32.43	33.33	63.65	86
Not agree	50.00	34.92	00.00	00.00
Neutral	14.86	31.75	36.36	14

As per KFU Medical teacher and student OBE doesn't need less study. KFU dental student and engineering feels that OBE needs less study.

**30. OBE Access student knowledge**

	<b>KFU medical Teachers</b>	<b>KFU medical Students</b>	<b>KFU Dental students</b>	<b>Indian engineering students.</b>
Agree	63.52	28.57	54.54	86
Not agree	17.56	36.51	31.82	00
Neutral	18.92	34.92	13.64	14

Teachers agree that students knowledge can be assessed in OBE. Only 28. 57% of KFU student agree with it.

**31. OBE Invigilation is not needed.**

	<b>KFU medical Teachers</b>	<b>KFU medical Students</b>	<b>KFU Dental students</b>	<b>Indian engineering students.</b>
Agree	28.38	53.97	50.00	78
Not agree	63.52	19.05	9.09	00
Neutral	8.11	26.98	40.91	22

Invigilators are needed in OBE as per most of teachers, dental student and engineering students. But KFU Students 19.05% says no need of invigilators.

**32. In OBE Valuation must be strict**

	<b>KFU medical Teachers</b>	<b>KFU medical Students</b>	<b>KFU Dental students</b>	<b>Indian engineering students.</b>
Agree	68.91	34.92	31.82	78
Not agree	10.81	17.46	22.73	00
Neutral	20.27	47.62	45.45	22

Majority opinion is that in OBE Valuation must be strict.

**33. OBE Analytical type of questions to be asked.**

	<b>KFU medical Teachers</b>	<b>KFU medical Students</b>	<b>KFU Dental students</b>	<b>Indian engineering students.</b>
Agree	77.03	34.91	22.73	62
Not agree	06.76	28.57	36.37	36
Neutral	16.22	36.51	40.91	02

Except dental students, majority from other group1 agree that questions must be more analytical types.

**34. Periodic survey like this is helpful**

	<b>KFU medical Teachers</b>	<b>KFU medical Students</b>	<b>KFU Dental students</b>	<b>Indian engineering students.</b>
Agree	71.62	66.66	36.37	68
Not agree	05.40	15.82	9.09	00
Neutral	22.97	17.46	54.55	32

Most of them agree that periodic survey like this is necessary and helpful to change the patterns of examinations.

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### 35. Open book exams helps to

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
A. Assess the comprehensive knowledge	25.68	36.51	22.73	44
B. Boost the student confidence	10.81	01.59	13.64	24
C. Reduces exam malpractice.	08.11	14.29	09.09	32
D. All	40.54	14.29	54.55	
E. Nil	08.11	26.98	00	
F. Others specify				

Most of the teachers opinion is that it helps to boost the student confidence, reduce the malpractice in addition al to assess the student capacity. Medical students gives opinion it is useful to assess comprehensive knowledge.

### 36. Open book exam helps in

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
A. Solving the problem	20.27	28.57	27.27	70
B. To make intelligent decision	12.16	19.05	09.09	14
C. Critical thinking	36.49	14.29	36.36	15
D. Intellectual skills	25.68	22.22	18.18	
E. Other (specify)	05.41	17.46	09.09	
_____				
nil	08.11			

Most of the Teacher opinion is that OBE helps in critical thinking, skills and solving the problems. Students are also giving similar opinion.

### 37. What are better to allow in open examination?

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
A. Only prescribed books	59.46	19.05	31.68	
B. Only teachers' notes	04.05	15.88	27.27	
C. Electronic equipments	08.11	14.29	18.18	
D. Whatever students like	22.97	38.09	13.64	
E. Discussion with others	02.70	14.29	09.09	
F. Other (specify) self notes	06.11			

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Most of the Teachers says only prescribed books must be allowed in the OBE. But most of the KFU Students say they must be allowed whatever they want.

### 38. Your suggestions for examination.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
A. Completely closed book exam	36.49	41.27	40.91	
B. Completely open book examination	01.35	03.17	13.64	
C. Both open and closed book exam	60.81	44.44	40.91	
D. Other (Specify)	01.35	11.11	05.50	
A. Completely closed book exam	00.00			

Majority of them all agree that assessment must be both open and close book examination.

### 39. Any other opinion you would like to give about Open book examinations.

	KFU medical Teachers	KFU medical Students	KFU Dental students	Indian engineering students.
A. No			100	
B. Yes(Specify)	Training teachers			

Teachers and student must be trained in OBE.

## DISCUSSION

Majority of the medical Students and teachers opinion is education is to learn skills and education must be enjoyable so that whatever student learnt will be more useful for long time. Their feeling is present day syllabus is extensive and some modification is needed in medical education mainly is assessing level. And it needs regular modification. This is experimentally proved by PK Agarwal<sup>1, 19</sup>. It is a good suggestion to be considered by committee who plans for medical education<sup>15</sup>.

As per the most of medical teacher and students Examination are important and it helps to assess knowledge of the students. It suggests that examinations must be there. Most of the Students and teachers also feel that exams cause stress and its consequences like burnout, dropout and suicide in the students, which is noticed in similar studies<sup>4,5</sup>. Our main aim is here how we can reduce it. Compared to Saudi Arabia. In India stress is also due to parents pressure. Parents also must be educated not to put pressure in their children.

In general exams are important and the results will help the student career but they all feel assessment can be different from traditional closed book examination and important topic must be covered in the examinations.

Medical teachers, students and dental students feels that only closed book examination is not sufficient in assessing the students. They feel overall assignments, orals. Presentations, tests in which questions distribution before exams are also important. I feel it is a good

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suggestion which may boost student confidence. Which is not accepted by engineering students.<sup>11</sup>

Teachers prefer more problem based questions and students preferred more objective and short answer type of questions rather than essay type of questions. Suggested by Jpsukham et al.<sup>17,18</sup>

Majority of the teachers and students agree that open book tests have some benefits. They all agree that there are some differences between open and close book examination. Also agree that OBE has created high order cognitive skills. Abdul Salam et al also proved the same in their studies<sup>3, 4,5,11,13,22,25</sup>

Teachers and students agree that OBE avoids rote learning and memorizing. Study by Feller, M. (1994) also proves it<sup>10,12,19, 23</sup>.

Teachers' opinion is OBE helps the students in the exams when they are stuck.

Teachers agree that OBE reduces the exam stress. But KFU students only 20.64% will agree. Similar study by Asif et al proved it<sup>2,11,16,22</sup>.

All are agreeing that OBE needs more time per question. This is noted by Tor Vidar et al<sup>9,17</sup>

Both teachers and students of Medical College agree that OBE study is not less. Jeremy B. Williams et al also proved it<sup>10, 18, 26</sup>. But dental students and engineering students (not exposed to OBE) don't agree that except KFU dental students all give the opinion exam table must be bigger in OBE. There is difficulty in getting referred books as per teacher and students. Combined opinion is that during OBE materials allowed must be checked. These points are also suggested by Michelle Schwartz et al<sup>21</sup>.

As per KFU Medical teacher and student OBE doesn't need less study. KFU dental student and engineering feels that OBE needs less study. Christos et al have similar results<sup>6,10</sup>.

Teachers agree that students' knowledge can be assessed in OBE. But 28.57% of the KFU students agree with it. Similar opinion is given by Josette Akresh-Gonzales.<sup>16</sup>

Invigilators are needed in OBE as per teacher and other students. But KFU students 53% say no need of invigilators.

Overall opinion is that in OBE valuation must be strict.

Except dental students all agree that questions must be more analytical types. Suggested by Studies in Educational Evaluation<sup>22</sup>.

All agree that periodic survey like this is necessary and helpful to change the patterns of teaching and assessment methods. Also suggested by Tor Vidar<sup>9</sup>.

Most of the teachers' opinion is that OBE helps to boost the student confidence, reduce the malpractice in addition to assess the student capacity. Medical students give opinion it is useful to assess comprehensive knowledge. This is what suggested by Green, S. G.<sup>28</sup>

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Teacher and students opinion is that OBE helps in critical thinking, skills and solving the problems. Study by Vidar also giving similar opinion<sup>29</sup>.

Most of the Teachers says only prescribed books must be allowed in the OBE. This is suggested by PK Mohan et al. <sup>19,20</sup>. But most of the KFU Students say they must be allowed whatever they want.

Majority of them all agree that assessment must be both open and close book examination. Durning et al proved this in their studies <sup>7,8,9,21,27</sup>.

There is opinion that Teachers and student must be trained in OBE<sup>28</sup>.

### CONCLUSION

Medical education is to learn skills and it must be enjoyable. Present day syllabus is extensive and regular modification is needed in teaching and assessing. Medical education committee must plan for that.

Examination causes stress and its consequences in the students but it is important to assess knowledge of the students and the results will help the student career. So, it must be there. Parents also must be educated not to put pressure in their children.

Our main aim is here how we can reduce exam stress. Assessment can be different from traditional closed book examination and important topic must be covered in the examinations. Only closed book examination is not sufficient in assessing the students. overall assignments, orals. Presentations, tests in which questions distribution before exams are also important. In boosting the student's confidence. Questions must be mixer of problem-based questions, objective type and short answer type rather essay types.

Open book test has many benefits. there are some differences between open and close book examination. It need of study is not less compare to close book and students knowledge can be assessed properly. OBE has created high order cognitive skills avoids rote learning and memorizing. It helps the students in the exams when they stuck. OBE helps to boost the student confidence, reduce the malpractice in addition al to assess the student capacity, it is useful to assess comprehensive knowledge. OBE helps in critical thinking, skills and solving the problems. OBE Reduces the exam stress but KFU students only 20.64% will agree. Their opinion questions must not be too strict.

The questions must be more analytical types. OBE needs more timing per questions and exam table must be bigger. Only prescribed books must be allowed. There may be difficulty in getting referred books. During OBE materials allowed must be checked. Invigilators are needed in OBE Valuation must be strict. Teachers and student must be trained for OBE.

Majority of them all agree that assessment must be both open and close book examination. All agree that periodic survey like this is necessary and helpful to change the patterns of examinations.

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