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### Research Article

## A study and evaluation on Journal club Meeting in a Medical College Hospital

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### Abstract

**Background:** Journal clubs aims at meeting regularly as a forum for critically appraise research articles, so as to enhance the various aspects in research which includes design of study, statistical analysis and have a sound discussion on the research article presented. The present study analyzed various factors involved in journal club meeting and evaluated the perceptions of journal club sessions further enhancement. **Materials and Methods:** The study was conducted at Chennai Medical College Hospital & Research Centre. 50 faculty members were enrolled for the present study. They were given standard questionnaires which assess the timing, days, preliminary information, article chosen, relevance of article, number of articles, and frequency of the journal club and provisions of refreshment. **Results:** A total of 50 faculty members were given the feedback for the questionnaire about the journal club. 35 participants were felt that the time of journal club is comfortable for attending the journal club and 15 participants felt not comfortable. The journal club meeting information, time table is send through email and telephonic contact through respective department, 44 participants felt that prior information about the journal club which is sent through email and telephonic contact is adequate and 2 participants felt that it has to be highlighted on the notice board or at places of vicinity for the doctors and also 4 participants felt that the information to be mailed individual faculty members. 43 participants agreed that one journal club would be sufficient in a month, 7 participants suggested for 2 such meetings in a month. All the participants agreed the day of conducting the journal club meeting is comfortable and agreed arrangements of provision of refreshments during journal club meeting. **Conclusion:** The present study analyzed the various factors as performance parameters of the currently successfully ongoing basic science journal club which suggests some fine tuning in selection of journals and a promising feedback on the process occurring. The successful implementation of journal club meetings needs continuation of the process along with constant feedback from the participants

### Keywords

Journal Club,  
Questionnaires,  
Preliminary Information,  
Article Chosen

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### Introduction

A Journal club can be defined as a group of individuals at a common parlance, meets on regular basis to discuss recent/current articles from medical literature as evidenced by Linzer<sup>1</sup>. The journal club has rooted a long history dated back to 1800 where it was held as a gathering of a group of doctors and medical students. The first journal club was taken place adjacent to a baker shop near the entrance of Bartholomew hospital, as per the reports by Sir James Paget<sup>2</sup>.

The current trends of journal club in medical education are to facilitate learning. The Learning process should have an evidence based deep knowledge about the subject and also the

presentations will enhance the art of presenting, updating the recent aspects in medical field, having a healthy discussion on a common topic. The objective of journal club must aim to imbibe the recent peer group works globally as a part of continual improvement process. This can be utilized and applied for better decision making and patient care. It was documented that the journal club was used for introducing educational concepts to teaching faculties, presenting articles as a pedagogic tool analyses and discussed on them. The articles presented in the journal club shall teach and assess competence in practice based learning and improvement<sup>3</sup>.

The journal club also facilitates medical students and teachers to review and evaluate medical literature which are published recently<sup>4,5</sup>. The journal clubs ensures the needs of medical personals and have now been included in curricula of almost all medical fields<sup>6</sup>.

The present study aims at assessing the various factors and evaluating the ongoing process which will serve as an quality indicator tool on the journal club and the inputs from the questionnaire can be utilized to improvise the betterment of process and for futuristic implications.

## Materials and Methods

The present study is an observational study which imparts the questionnaire survey as a component of the study. 50 faculty members were enrolled for the present study. The study was conducted at Chennai Medical College Hospital and research centre (SRM Group), Irungalur, Tiruchirappalli. The Department of Biochemistry is conducting basic science journal club which comprises of two original research articles for common discussion. The research article encompasses one from pre and para clinical sciences and the other from clinical sciences. The journal club was conducted every third Thursdays with the duration of 1 hour. The duration for each journal is 30 minutes, where the presentation 20 minutes and discussion for 10 minutes. A validated questionnaire edited and revised by organizers and core committee of the journal club was prepared. The questionnaire comprises of adequacy of timing, days, preliminary information, article chosen, relevance of article, number of articles, frequency of the

journal club and provision of refreshment as given in the table number 1.

**Statistical Analysis:** The responses to the questionnaire were analyzed in the form of descriptive statistics. The SPSS version 19 software was used for statistical analysis.

## Results

50 faculty members were enrolled for the present study. They were given the questionnaire and the responses were analyzed. As shown in the Figure 1. 35 participants felt that the time of journal club is comfortable for attending and 15 felt that the time was not convenient to attend and 23 participants agree with the content and relevance of the article chosen, while 26 participants partially agree and one participant suggested reviews can also be chosen for presentation. Figure 2. show that 44 participants has agreed that the email received a week before by circular followed by telephonic message was adequate. 2 participants suggested displaying the programme of the journal club on the notice board 3 days prior to the event. 4 participants suggested sending the programme of the journal club through mail to all the departments one day prior to the event. 43 participants were accepted that one journal club meeting per month is considered adequate and 7 participants were opting for bimonthly journal club. All the 50 participants were agreed the third week of Thursday is considered comfortable. And also all the participants needs the provision of refreshments during the journal club meetings.

**Table 1: Questionnaire: Study and evaluation of journal club meeting**

<b>Chennai Medical College Hospital &amp; Research Centre (SRM Group) Irungalur, Trichy – 621105</b>	
<b>Basic Science Journal Club – Questionnaire</b> For assessing Effectiveness of Journal Club	
<b>Designation :</b>	<b>Department:</b>
1. Do you feel the time of journal club is comfortable for attending If no kindly mention the comfortable time _____	Yes / No
2. Do you feel the day (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month) of journal club is comfortable for attending If no kindly mention the suitable day _____	Yes / No
3. Do you feel the preliminary information given to you through circular followed by telephonic message is adequate If no kindly suggest the other ways _____	Yes / No
4. Do you feel pre reading of journal circulated through Email to all HOD's along with programme is needed _____	Yes / No
5. Do you feel the article chosen in the journal club meeting is relevant Completely agree / Partially agree / Not relevant	
6. Do you feel the frequency (once in month) is sufficient _____	Yes / Can be enhanced
7. Do you feel 2 journals are sufficient per journal club meeting If not sufficient how many journals are needed _____	Sufficient / Not Sufficient
8. Do you feel provision of refreshments during the journal club is needed _____	Yes / Not necessary

**Figure 1: Time and Article Chosen for Journal Club Meeting**

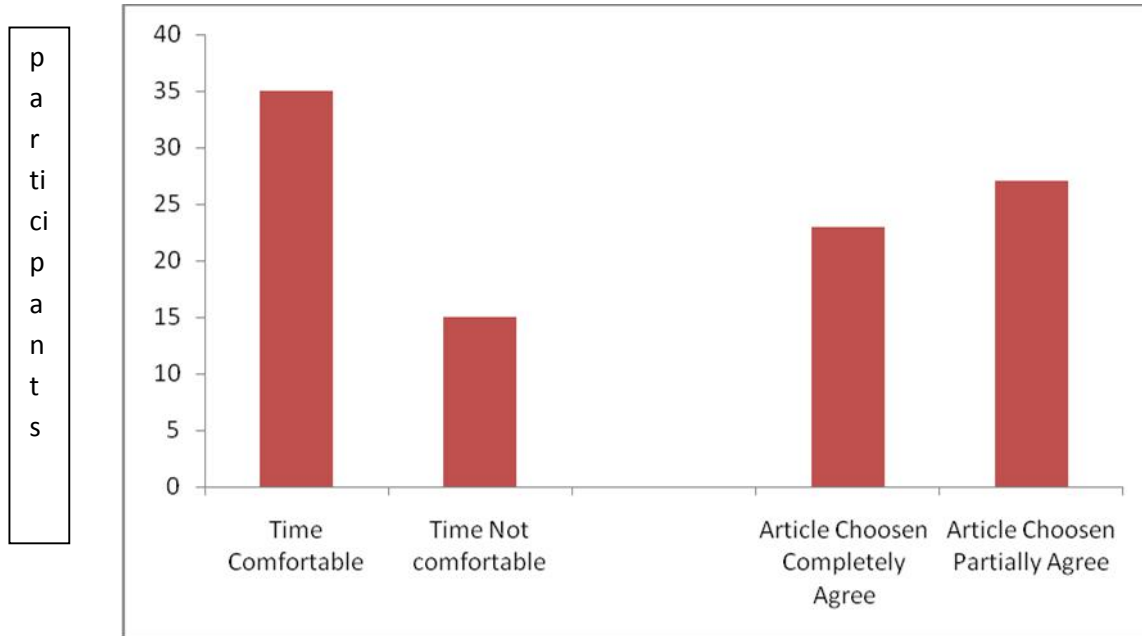


Fig.1 shows the time comfortable and article chosen for attending journal club

**Figure 2: Prior information of the journal club meeting**

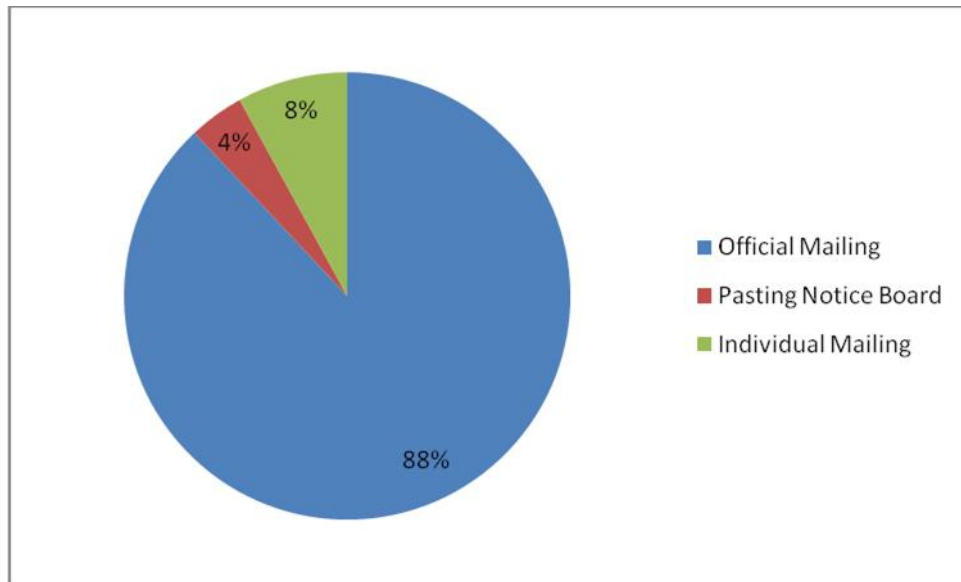


Fig.2 shows the prior circular information for attending journal club

## Discussion

The journal clubs evidenced a long history of about a century, when the very first journal club was initiated by sir William osler in Britain in 1875 intended to share knowledge, updating the new information among the medical personnel<sup>6,7</sup>. In today's evidence based medicine

practice, reviewing of recent information's and discussions of scientific techniques, innovations and trends in the form of journal club is quite essential for any health sector organizations<sup>8,9</sup>. Especially in a teaching hospitals and medical colleges the discussion on journal meetings is very much needed<sup>10</sup>.

For running a successful journal club it is imperative to have a systematic working pattern in terms of policy, protocol, plan and sustained implementation. The journal club as a scientific educational event has to occur regularly and the matters discussed in the event should be imbibed by the participants as a tool of evidence based learning. This could provide a platform to excel their presentation skill and critical appraisal of the article<sup>11, 12</sup>.

With the above mentioned strategies the basic science journal club of Chennai medical college hospital and research centre has analyzed various factors in the form of questionnaire as a quality indicator and also a feedback for improvisation of the process. The adequacy, plan and programming and reviews about the journal club were evaluated in the form of questionnaire. The responses has evidenced that the more participants are comfortable with the timings and the days of occurrences of the journal clubs. Prior information about the programme of the journal club was also found adequate by more number of participants. As the journal club has well defined policy and framework about the scheduling and communication the responses are quite promising.

Regarding the content and relevance of article chosen there was an ambiguous response where 23 participants completely agree, 26 participants partially agree and one participant suggested including review article also for discussion in the journal club. Although the present journal club has an established policy and protocols in terms of article chosen the responses need further introspection for further refinements. All the participants suggested for arrangements of refreshments during the journal clubs and this was implemented as provision of tea and biscuits in the following journal clubs .

The present study analyzed the various factors as performance parameters of the currently successfully ongoing basic science journal club which suggests some fine tuning in selection of journals , promising feedback on the process occurring and provision of refreshments during the journal clubs . The successful implementation of journal club meetings needs a continual implementation and introspecting in the form of constant feedback from the participants.

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## Authors Contributions

Sundhararajan has done the plan, programming, assessment among the participants and analyzed the results statistically.

Senthil kumaran structured and organized the present study. Both the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Competing Interests

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist for the present study.

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