

# Adopting Virtual Role Play in Family Medicine Training during COVID-19 Pandemic

DR KYE MON MIN SWE

*Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, M. Kandiah Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia*

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** As online learning escalates during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important for educators to explore teaching techniques that engaged students and enhanced learning at a profound level. Role-play is a widely used educational method for learning about communication in medical education and online role-playing permits successful and highly enjoyable learning experiences for medical students.

**Case Description:** Role-play is used as simulation training to acquire knowledge, attitudes, and skills in communication in a range of disciplines. The online role-play session has been adopted in family medicine communication skill training of year 4 medical students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The online role-playing process involves three steps: preparation, role-playing, and analysis. Preparation is a crucial step and analysis with reflection and feedback is the most beneficial for students.

**Discussion:** Through online role-play sessions, students acquired knowledge and attitude, by observing, understanding, assimilating information, and experiencing emotions, and obtained skills via performing and reflecting, and getting feedback. The educational theories such as Kolb experiential learning, adult learning theory, reflective practice, and feedback are relevant in role-play. Role-playing involves high-level Bloom Taxonomy, which requires students to analyze, synthesize, and reflect on the significant facts in the case.

**Conclusion:** Online role-playing provides the students to acquire knowledge, attitude, and skills in communication as well as engages students intimately in the learning process. The students have found online role-playing not only educational but also enjoyable.

Keywords: Family medicine; medical students; virtual role play