



Global Partnerships for Global Problems: Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Medical Education Across Africa, September-October, 2020.

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Introduction

- Research is needed to understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the implications it may have on education and health systems across the globe.
- Our research team is composed of Ethiopian Medical Students' Association (EMSA) members and University of Michigan Medical School students.
- EMSA is a non-profit organization and a member of International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) based in Ethiopia. It is led by medical students working towards improving medical education and public health.

Methodology

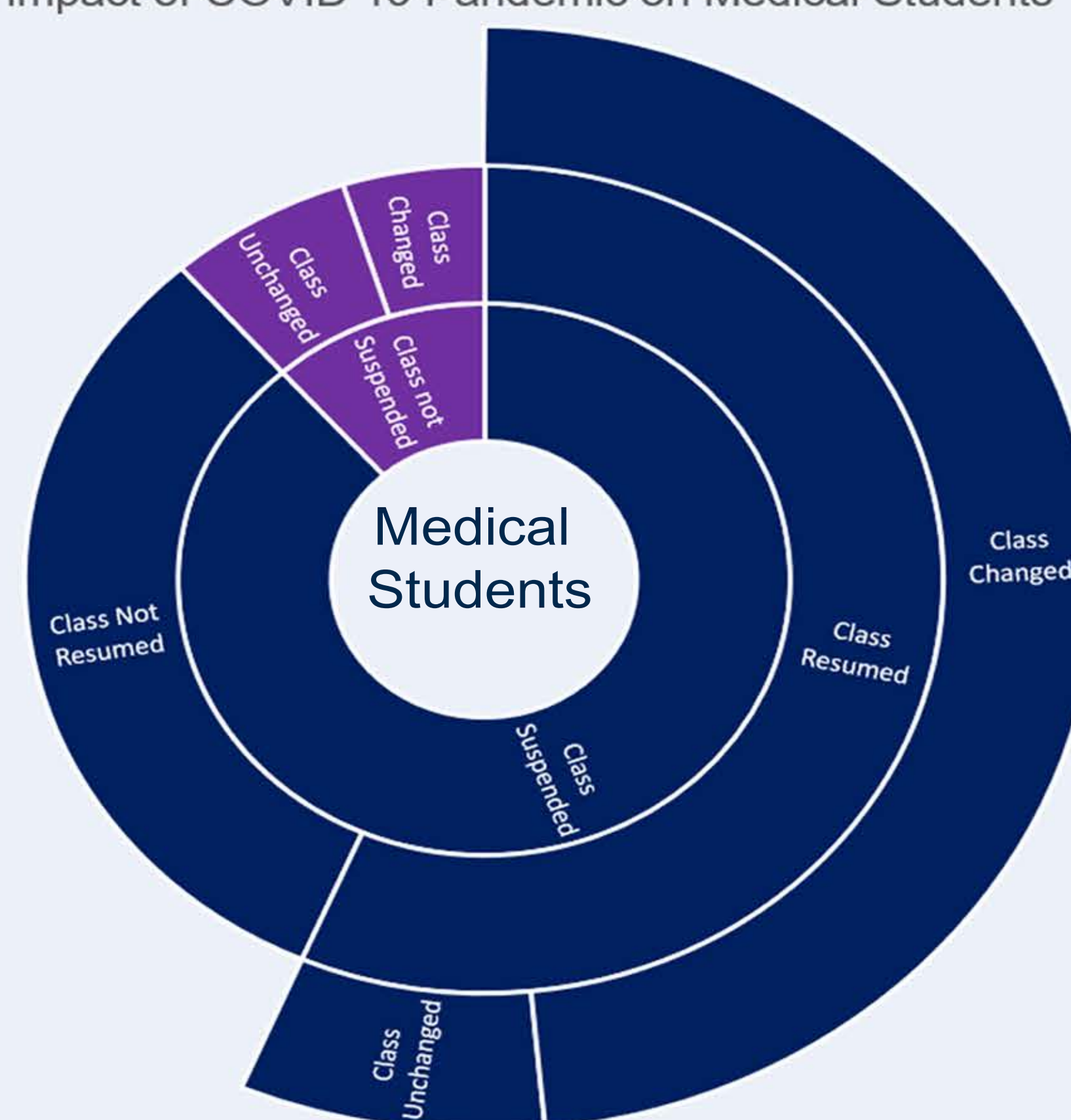
- The team used their connections within EMSA to access a rich network of medical students across Africa. Using this network, a prefect responsible for collecting data from his/her country was selected from each country. Via the prefects, an anonymous electronic survey was sent to medical schools across thirty-three African countries.
- The consisted of a 39-item survey composed of Likert scale, dichotomous, and free-response items. Lasting from September 15 until October 5, 2020, the survey assessed various domains of class structure and timing, patient interactions, exam administration, learning environment satisfaction, mental health impacts, and volunteer opportunities/engagement.



Results

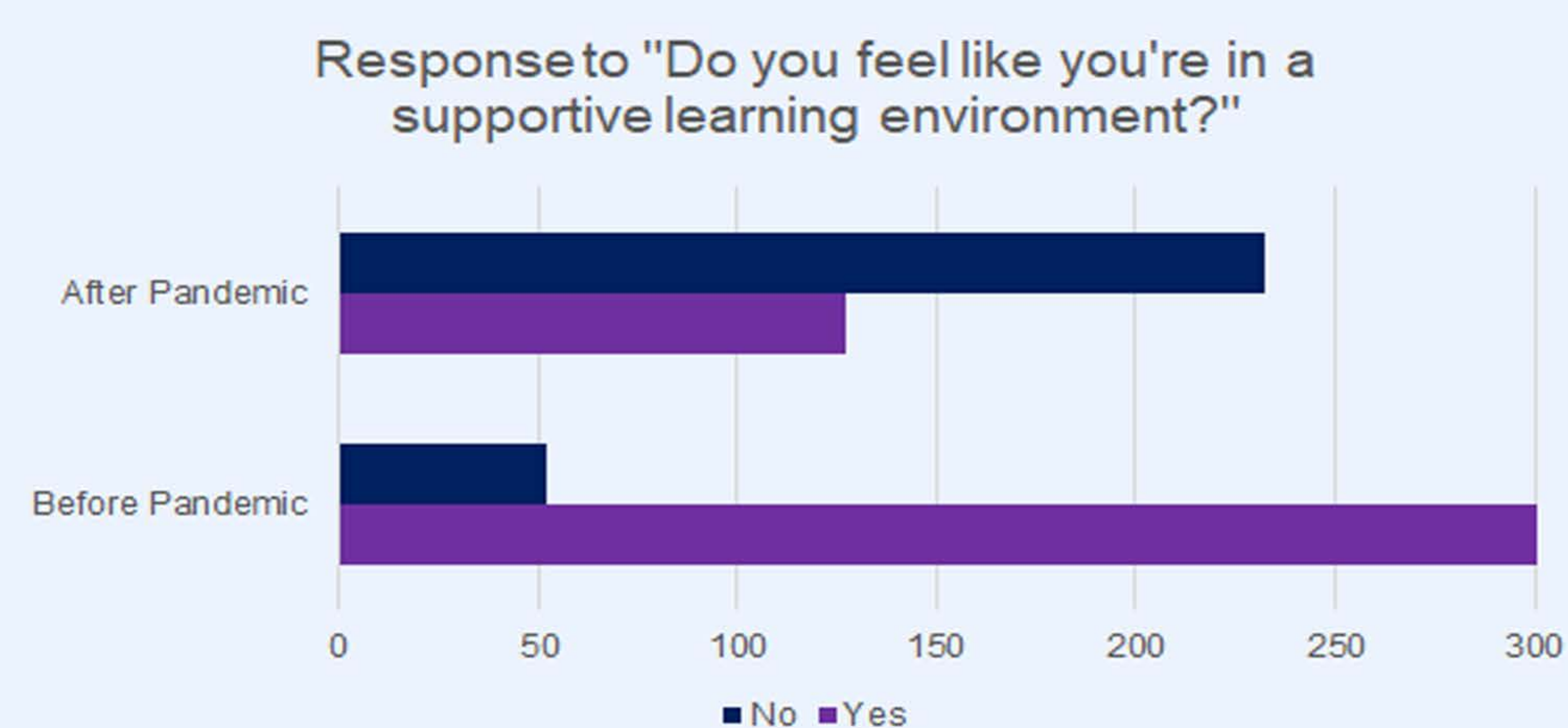
694 medical students out of 33 African countries completed our survey

The impact of COVID 19 Pandemic on Medical Students



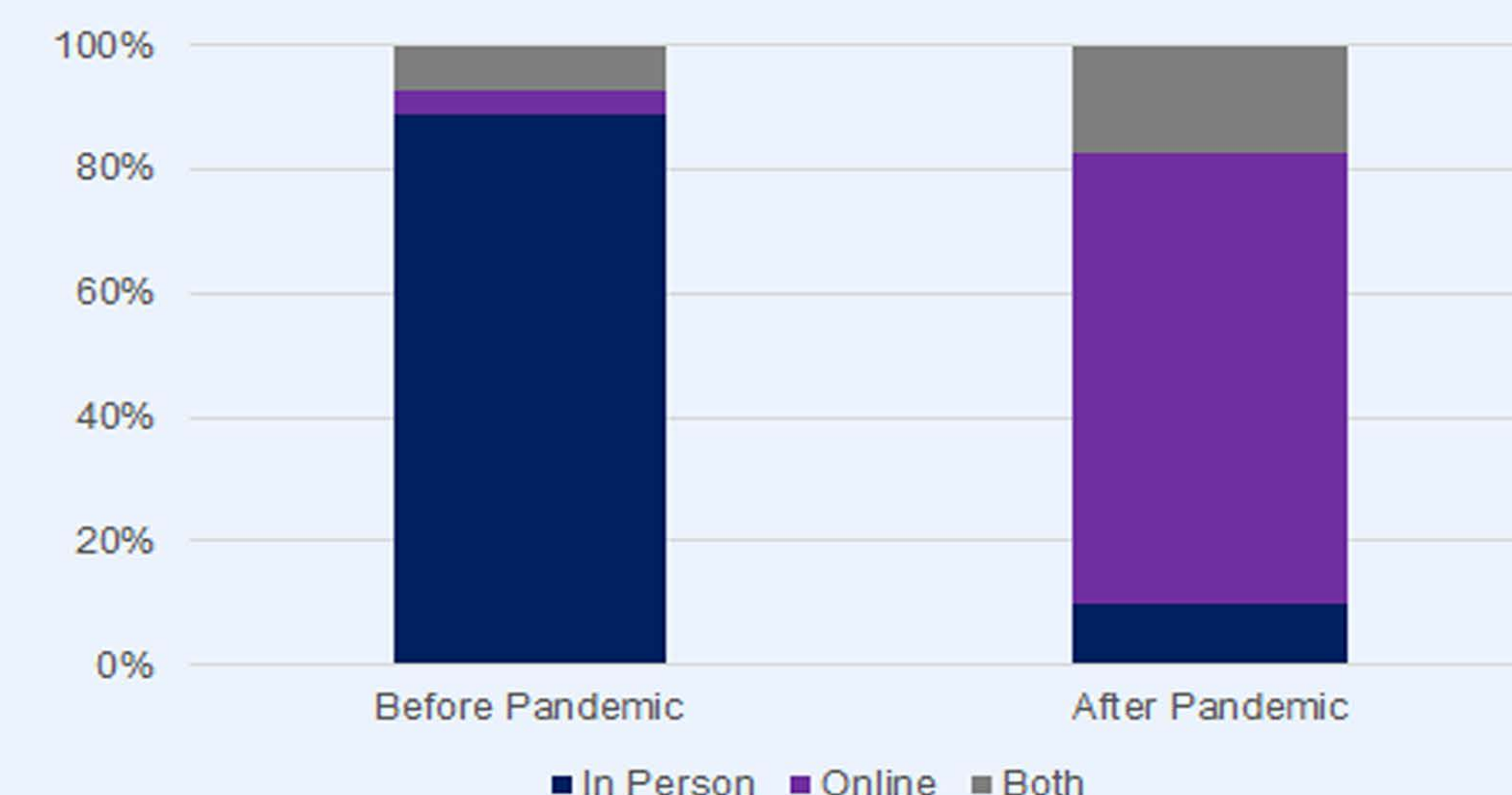
- 87.8 % (609) of students reported that their medical schools had been initially closed; among those, at the time of our study, only 64.2 % (329) said that their schools had reopened by changing their approach. 4.9% (34) of the students reported that their school continued through the pandemic by changing its approach.

- Students from the medical schools that changed their approach saw a 150% increase in exclusive online classes while physical patient interaction decreased by 87%. 20.8% (67) of students also reported that all forms of examination had been dismissed.



- From the same sample, the number of students who didn't feel like they were in a supportive learning environment grew from 52 to 232.

Format of lectures



Conclusion

The majority of students surveyed had their education and learning environment disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This disruption may have important global public health implications in the future. Furthermore; the international research team fostered a friendly environment for sharing cultures while simultaneously giving a global dimension for the data, which is a necessity for tackling global problems.

