

Promoting self-assessment in FDPs – Does use of 'I am not sure' as an option in pre-post tests help?

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Introduction

- An unusual observation on an FDP (rBCW) 'Pre-Post test' scores..
- MEAN SCORES PRE-TEST 5.233333333 vs POST-TEST 7.666666667**
- Paired 't-test' - [value of t was 4.639054; value of p was .00007] (significant) **BUT**

Some participants had **decrease / no change** in post-test scores!!

HYPOTHESIS -

Some participating faculty didn't learn anything in the programme. They were either using a guess work or randomly selecting options which got right by fluke in pre-test; but not in post-test!

RESEARCH QUESTION –

Does adding 'I am not sure' option in the MCQs in pre-post-tests in FDP minimize guesswork / promote self-assessment ?

OBJECTIVES:

- To determine effect of adding 'I am not sure' option in the MCQs on guesswork of participants while attempting pre-post tests in FDP
- To determine the outcome of adding 'I am not sure' option in the MCQs on the overall change in scores in pre-post tests in FDP

Methodology

15 MCQs designed - 4 plausible options (1 key, 3 distractors) and an additional option 'I am not sure' for pre-post tests

Participants sensitized to use 'I am not sure' if they are not sure about the correct answer

Scores of pre and post tests were compared

Frequency of selecting 'I am not sure' option in pre and post-tests was compared

Correlation between use of 'I am not sure' and change in pre-post tests scores determined

Observations

Key findings - FDP [CISP – III (2024)] N = 29

Designation	No. (%)	Change in scores in post tests	No. (%)
Professor	1 (3.45)	Increase in post-test	26 (89.66)
Associate Professor	4 (13.8)	Decrease in post-test	3 (10.34)
Assistant Professor	24 (82.75)	No change in post-test	0 (0)

Acknowledgements –

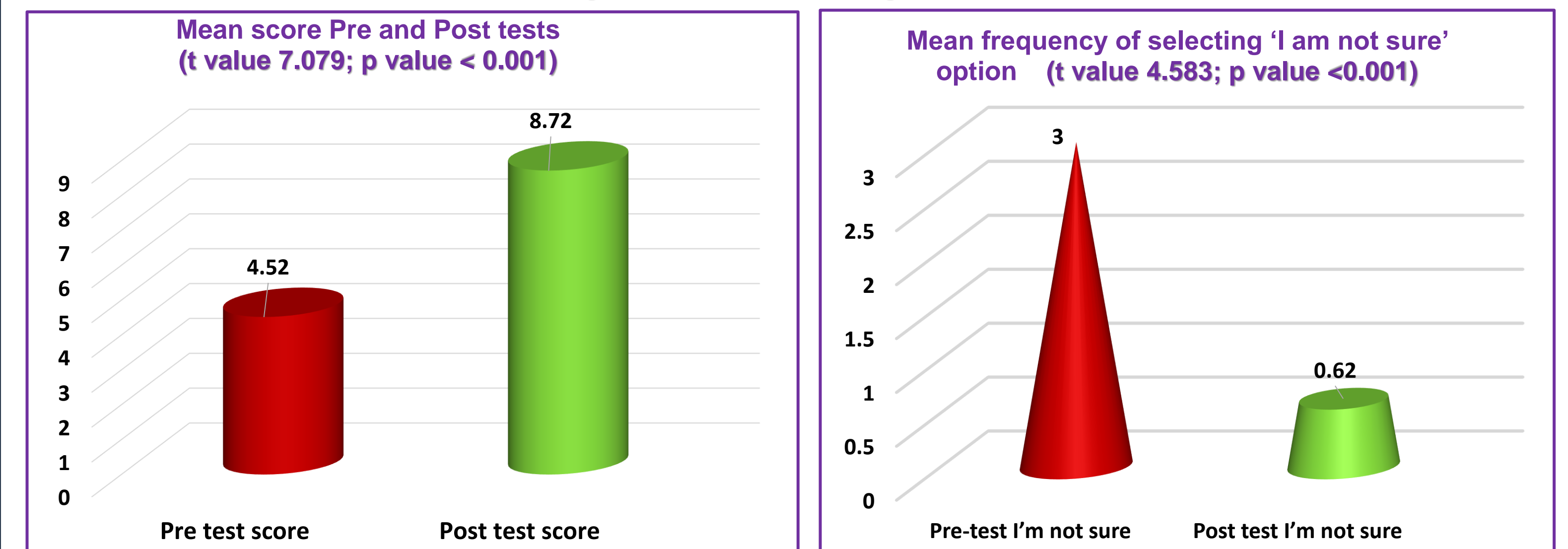
- Dean, PCMS&RC, Bhopal
- TEAM MEU & CC
- All participating Faculty

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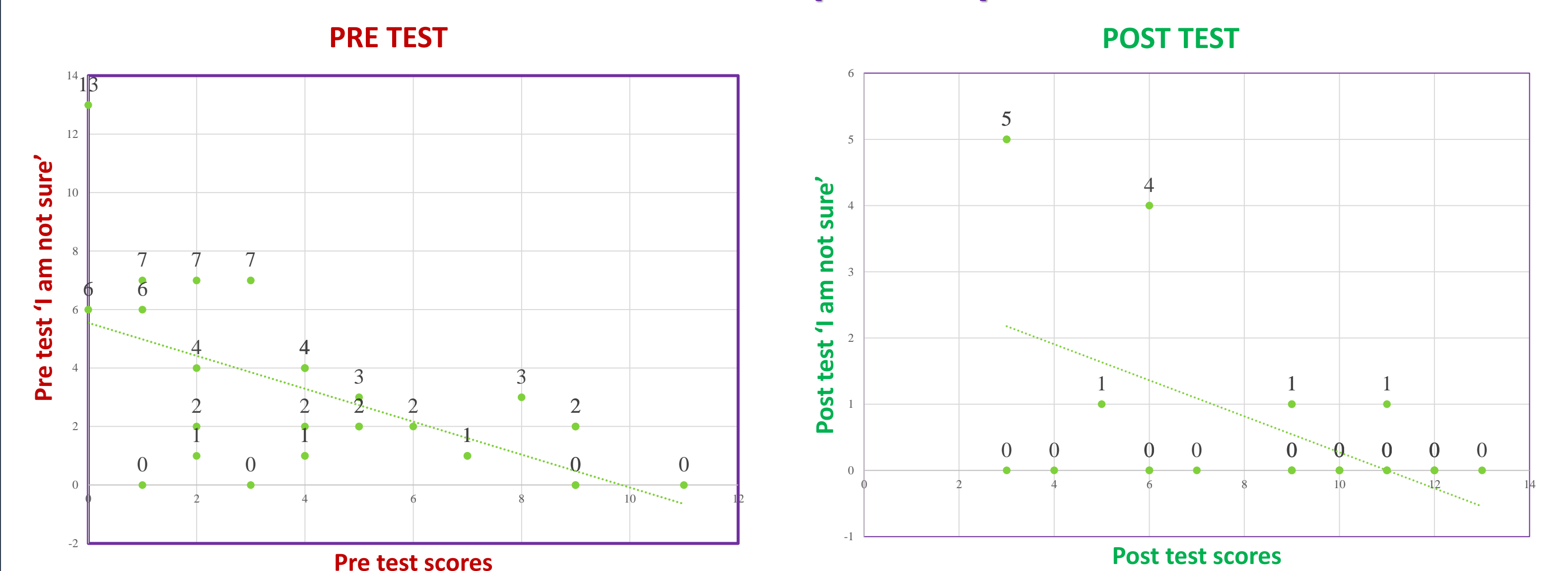


Results

Comparison of Pre-post tests



Scatter diagram of correlation between frequency of selecting 'I am not sure' and 'scores' in pre and post tests



(Correlation coefficient -0.583, p-value 0.001) (Correlation coefficient -0.565, p-value 0.001)
Indicate a moderate negative relationship between the two variables

Scatter diagram of correlation between difference in frequency of selecting 'I am not sure' and change in scores in pre-post tests (p=0.006)



Correlation coefficient 0.498, indicate a moderate positive relationship between them

Conclusion

- Some participants can have **decrease / no change** in post-test scores despite of attending FDP
- Need to review individual faculty's pre-post test scores too!
- Use of 'I am not sure' in MCQs based Pre-Post tests in FDPs –
 - can be a useful option in minimizing guesswork
 - is likely to promote honest self-assessment (awareness) and give more authentic results
- If there are too many responses of 'I am not sure' in post-test -
 - It's feedback to trainers to remove ambiguity in their presentations

CHALLENGE TO BE ADDRESSED – What are the factors responsible for no change or decrease in post-test marks in few participating faculty ?

LIMITATION – Study involved only 1 FDP

QUERY FOR AUDIENCE – Do you have similar observations?

References –

- Medical Council of India. Faculty Development initiatives for the Undergraduate Medical Education Program, ten years' experience –status report, 2020: pp 1-24.
- Kharkar A, Gulanikar S, Gulanikar A, Shroff GA. Impact of basic training programme on medical teachers—A useful pathway to success. Int J Cur Res Rev. 2020 Jul;12:69-74.