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# A Comparison Between Online and Traditional Methods of Curriculum Delivery in the COVID-19 Era to Dental and Medical Students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, St Augustine Campus, UWI



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## Introduction

- With the inability to conduct classes in the traditional classroom setting due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students have been forced to adapt to an online curriculum delivery.
- There is limited data about the impact of e-learning on students enlisted in medical programmes within the Caribbean.
- Recent research has found that many students' mental health were affected, and it is crucial for this data to gathered and understood to take steps in combatting mental health challenges.

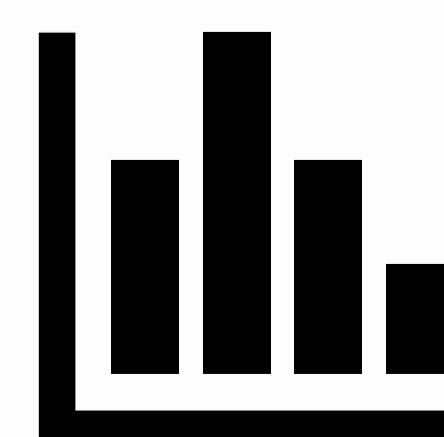
## Objective

The objectives of this project are to determine:

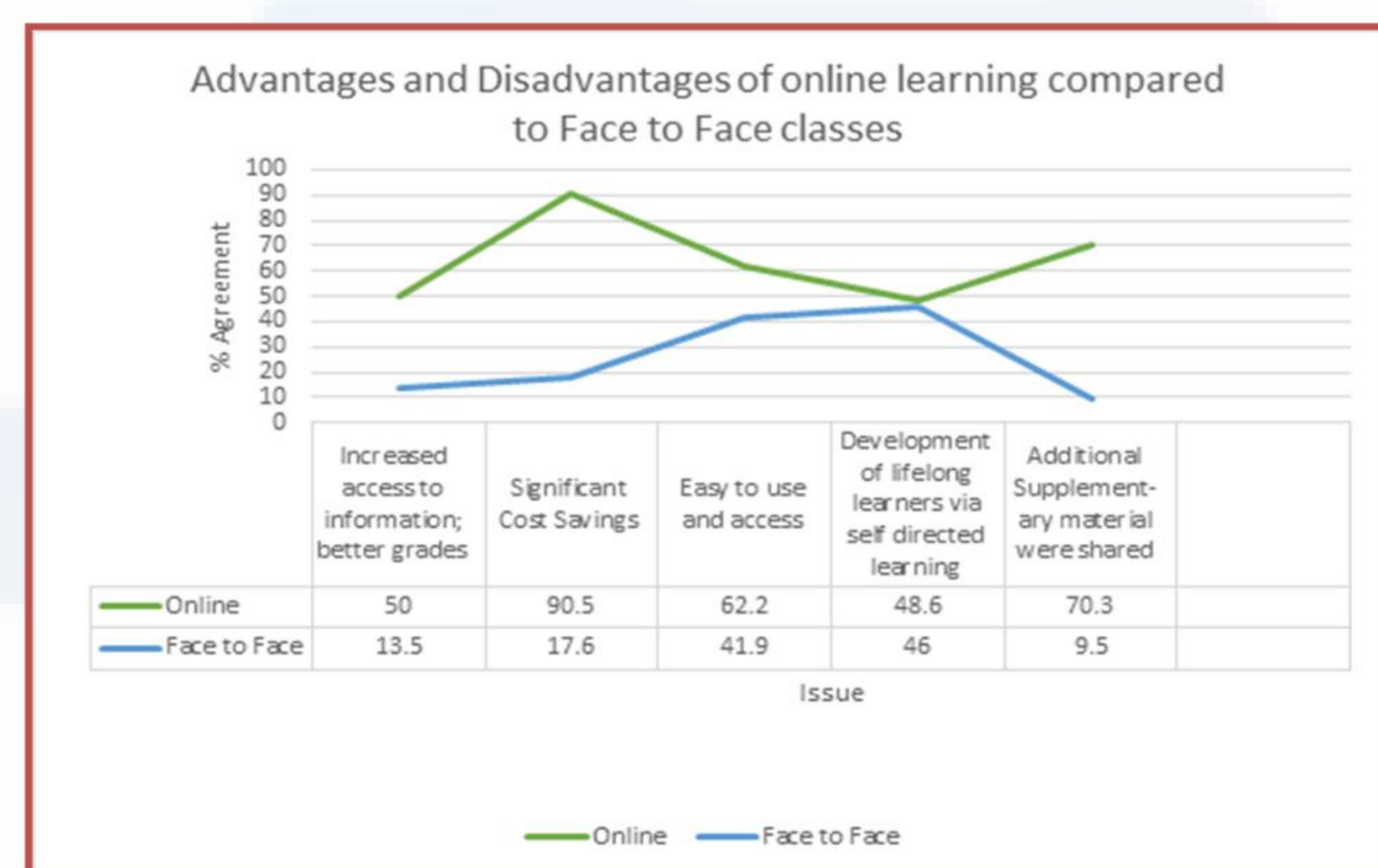
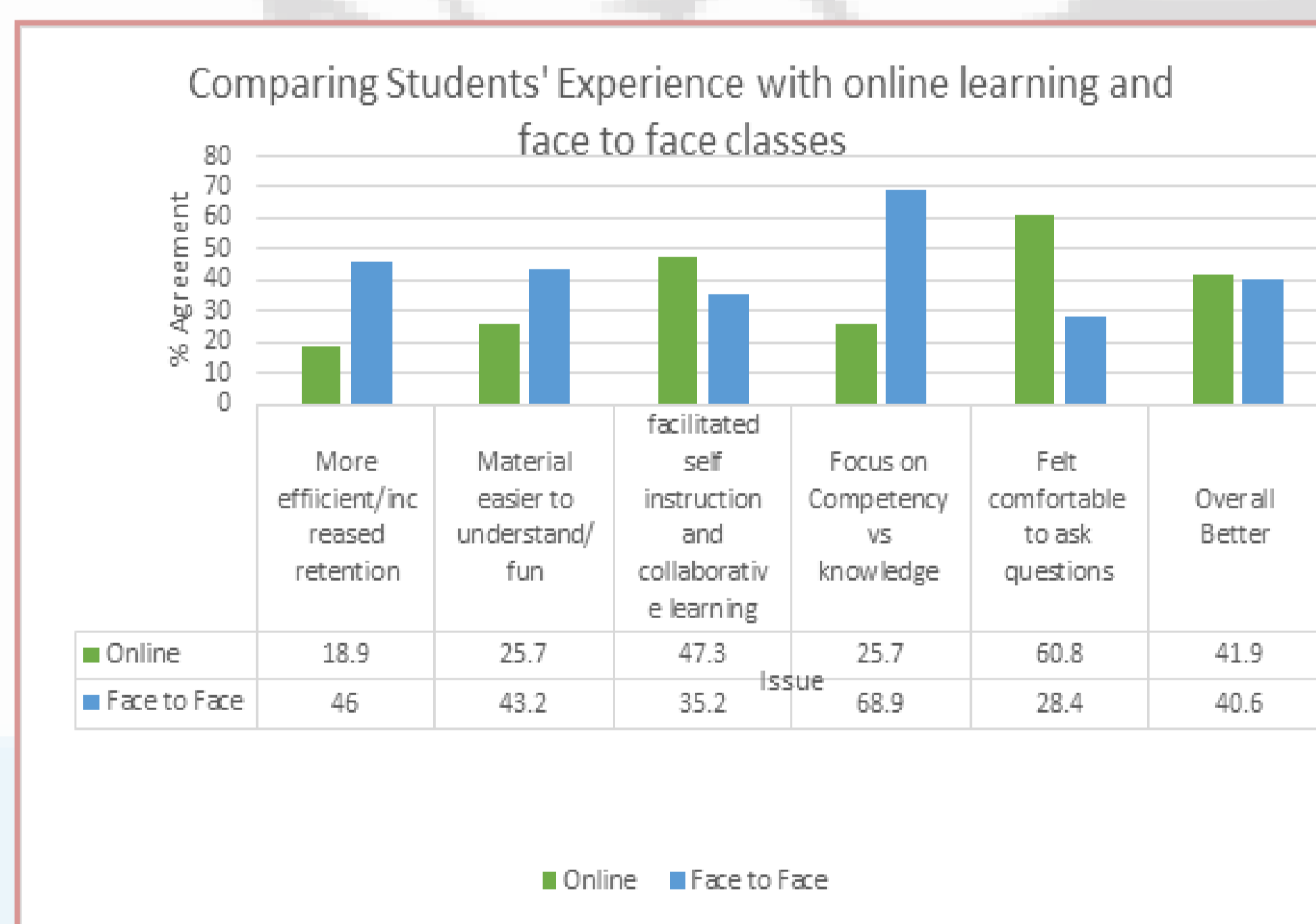
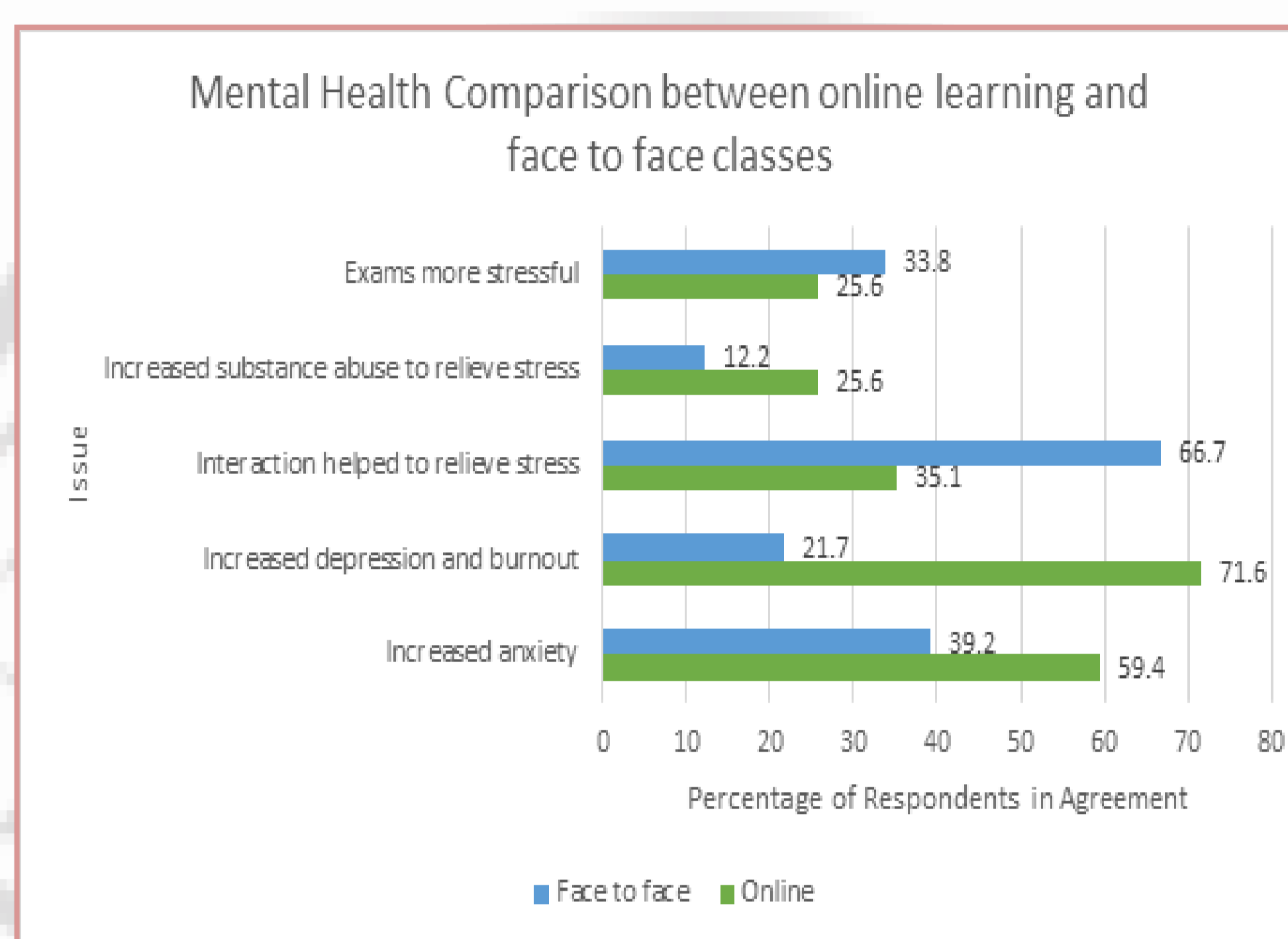
- The differences in student experiences on both online & traditional curriculum delivery.
- The impact of online learning on the physical and mental health of Medical Students.
- The advantages & disadvantages of online & traditional learning.
- Effective information and communication technologies for increasing medical student participation and learning.

## Methodology

- This study was a retrospective cohort study.
- The study population consisted of year 1 and 2 students who are currently pursuing either their MBBS or DDS degrees at the faculty of medical sciences, UWI St Augustine campus.
- Data was collected by distribution of an online questionnaire which was completed voluntarily by 74 students within the study population.



## Results



## Discussion

### Mental health during online learning

- 59.4% of respondents claimed that their anxiety levels increased.
- 71.6% claimed increased depression and burnout.
- 25.7% of respondents claimed increased substance abuse to relieve stress and anxiety.

### Student experiences

- 46% of respondents experienced increased retention during face-to-face teaching.
- 43% had an easier time understanding material in face-to-face teaching.
- 68.9% found face-to-face teaching produced greater competency.

### Advantages and disadvantages

- 50% of respondents had experienced increased access to information and better grades during online teaching.
- 90% had experienced significant cost savings during online teaching.
- 48.6% claimed increased development of lifelong learners during online teaching.

## Conclusion

- Despite the sudden shift from face-to-face learning to an online platform, students preferred online learning even though there was an increase in mental health challenges experienced.
- Online learning was found to be cost effective, flexible and allowed greater opportunities to conduct self-directed learning
- Traditional teaching methods still hold the most value when it comes to practical skills, lab experiments and overall retention rates.

## References

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7387263/>
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343906558\\_Coronavirus\\_outbreaks\\_including\\_COVID-19\\_and\\_impacts\\_on\\_medical\\_education\\_A\\_systematic\\_review](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343906558_Coronavirus_outbreaks_including_COVID-19_and_impacts_on_medical_education_A_systematic_review)
- <https://jme.bmj.com/content/46/9/623>

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