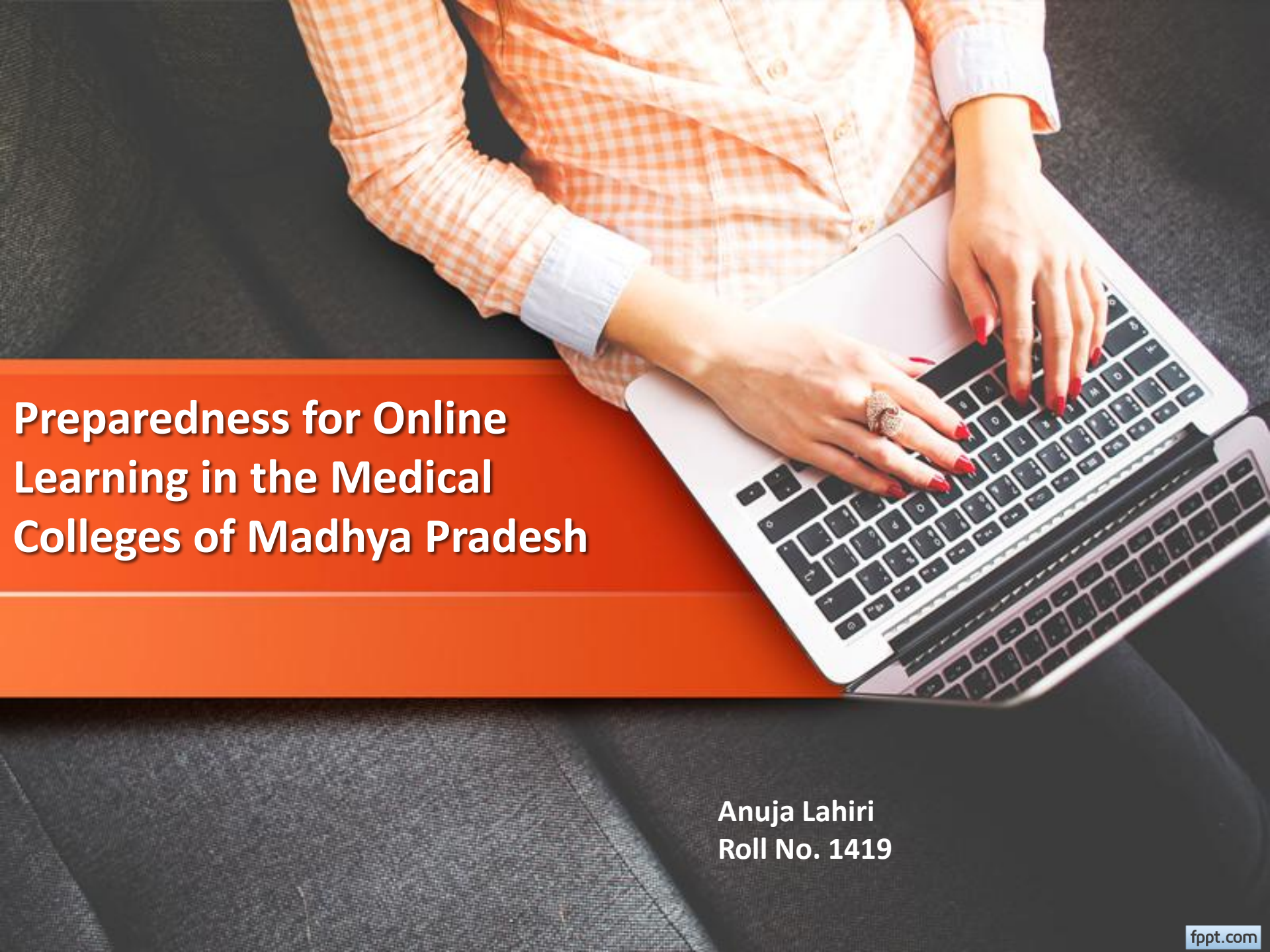


A high-angle photograph of a person's hands and arms as they type on a silver laptop. The person is wearing an orange and white checkered button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up. Their fingernails are painted red, and they are wearing a large, ornate ring on the ring finger of their left hand. The laptop is open, and the keyboard is visible. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Preparedness for Online Learning in the Medical Colleges of Madhya Pradesh

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Introduction

- Online learning is using internet for the purpose of learning (online short and long certificate courses, workshops, videoconferencing , etc)
- Online learning can be used in developing the capacity of the researchers (including faculty members/PG students) of the medical colleges so that they can do quality research work thus providing relevant information to the policymakers for carrying out the needful work.
- Along with their traditional classroom learning, e-courses available on internet by esteemed universities present around the globe can enhance their research work to a great extent



Rationale

Previous studies clearly depicts that online learning is **important** and requires **readiness** of the medical institutions in terms of infrastructure and human resource but till date and to the best of our knowledge no study is conducted which highlights the preparedness of medical colleges of MP for online learning courses. The current study focuses predominantly on this gap.



Research question

What is the level of preparedness of online learning in the medical colleges of MP?

Objectives

- To study usage of online learning courses by the study participants
- To explore perception and acceptance of e-learning among the participants.
- To study availability of infrastructure for online learning in the medical colleges of MP

Methodology

Study area

This study is done in medical colleges of MP in five cities (Bhopal, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Sagar and Indore). To maintain the confidentiality the names of the eight colleges has been coded from A to H

Study participants

Study participants are the faculty members/PG students of the Public Health Research/Community Medicine Department of the medical colleges



Study duration

Study is conducted in a duration of three months (Feb 2,2015- May 12,2015)

Sample size

Based on viability and feasibility consideration

Sample size- 8 medical colleges of MP

- 31 researchers (faculty members/PG students)
- 8 IT operators/administration personnel



Sampling technique

Non-probability sampling is done. In it Purposive sampling method is used

Study Design



For objective 1 and 2

Qualitative study

- Tool- open ended questionnaire
- Analysis- Thematic Framework approach to analyze data

For objective 3

Quantitative study

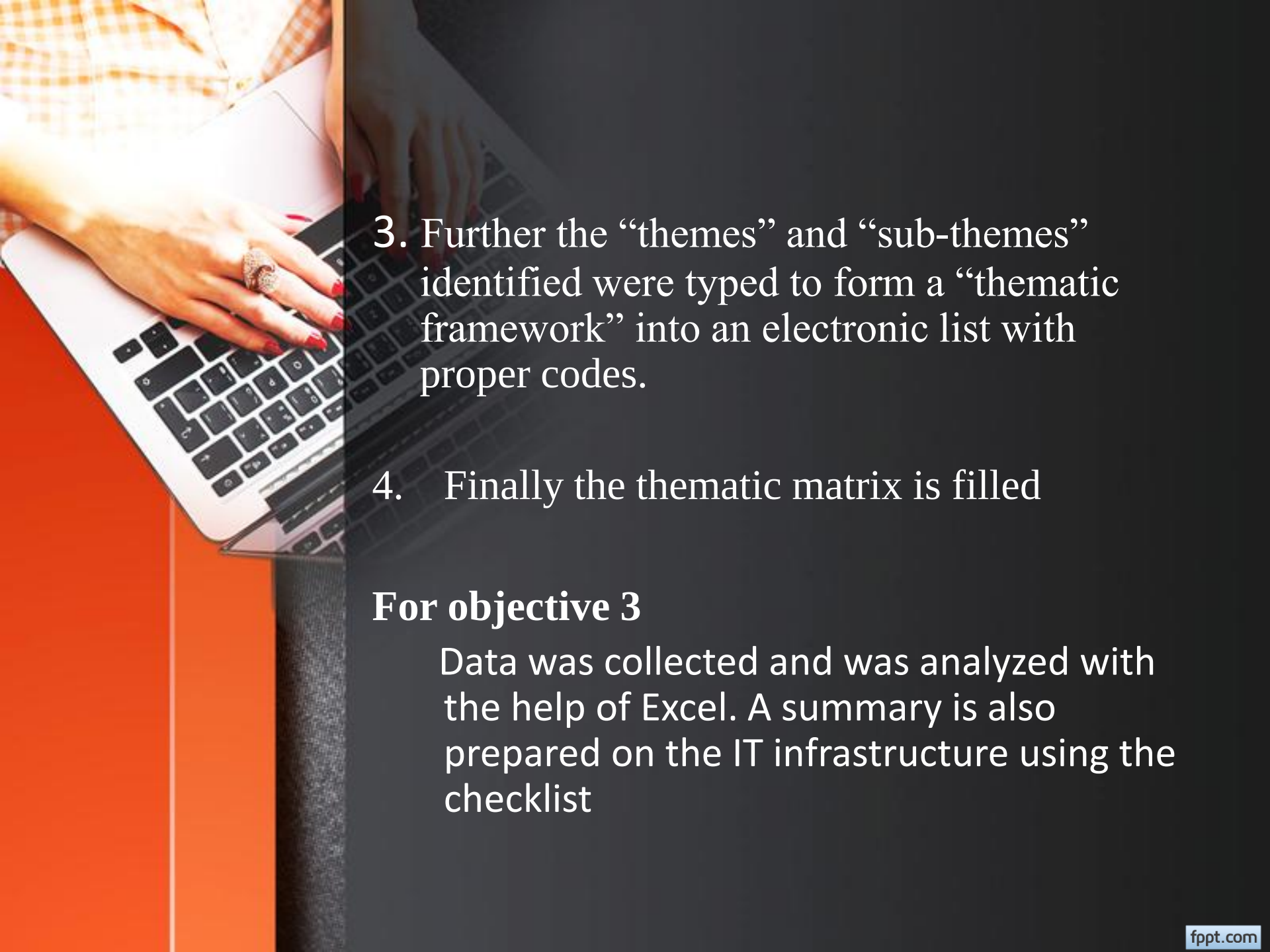
- Tool- checklist
- Analysis- Data tabulation (columns)



Data Analysis

For objective 1 and 2

- The data was collected by using open ended questionnaires and was analyzed with the help of Thematic Framework Analysis. The steps are:
 1. Firstly the transcripts were read (from the filled questionnaires) and heard (audiotapes) thoroughly and then the recurring concepts and the ideas were identified inductively from the respondents' responses.
 2. This was followed by the identification of main “themes” and “sub-themes”



3. Further the “themes” and “sub-themes” identified were typed to form a “thematic framework” into an electronic list with proper codes.

4. Finally the thematic matrix is filled

For objective 3

Data was collected and was analyzed with the help of Excel. A summary is also prepared on the IT infrastructure using the checklist

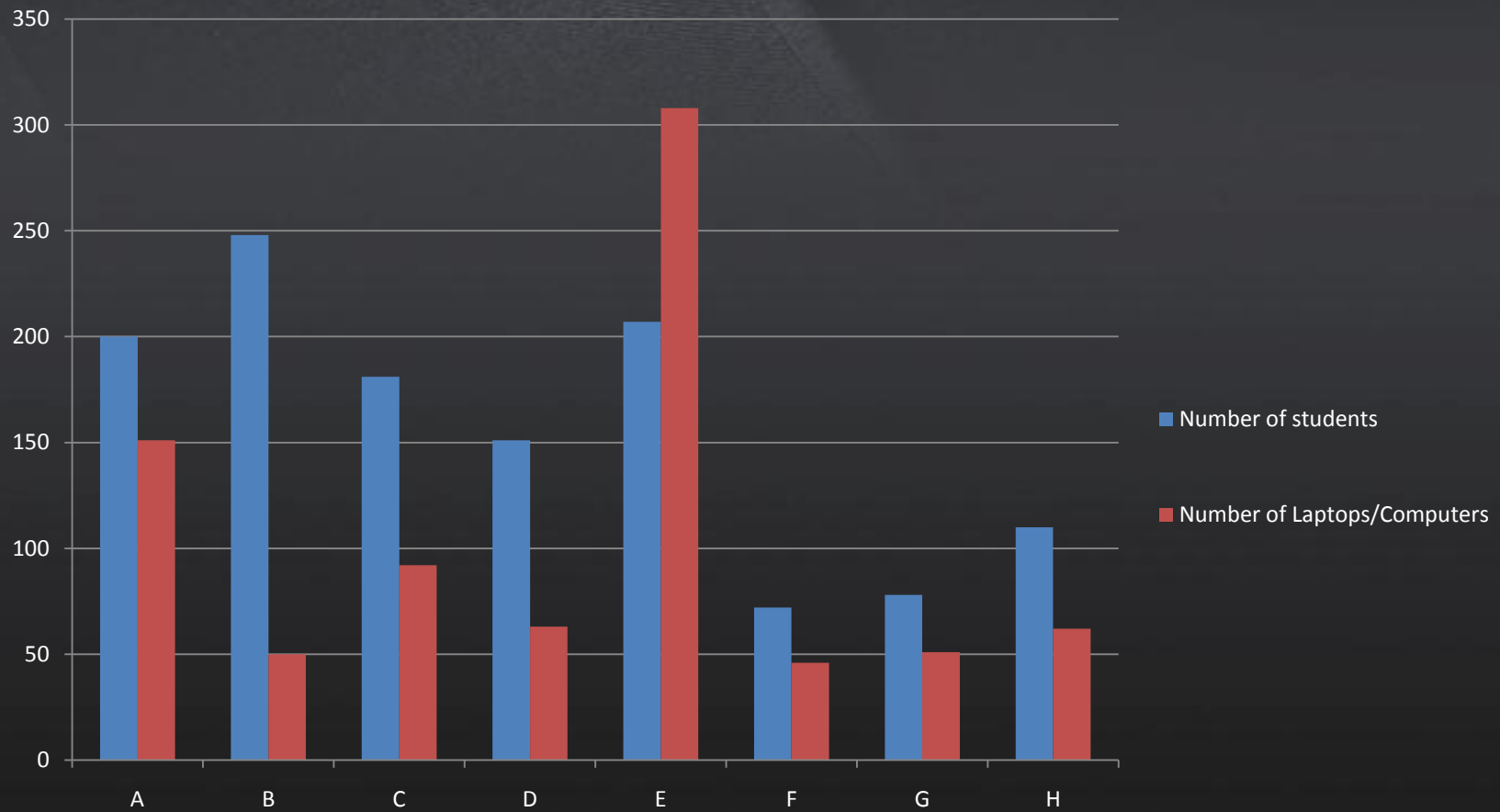
Results

Themes	Sub-themes
1. Knowledge about online learning	no knowledge about it
	facts known
	using internet for reading articles/journals/videos, etc
	online courses done
2. Challenges of online learning	internet connectivity/speed
	availability of computers
	time allocation
	awareness related to e-courses
	lack of human touch
	lack of incentive/certificate
	not user friendly with internet/online course



Themes	Sub-themes
3. Benefits of online learning	saves time
	no need of physical presence to attend class
	variety/globalization/quality matter
	increase knowledge/skills
	convenient/can pause/repeat
	economical
4. Using online learning in future	will use in future
	will not use in future

IT infrastructure





Parameter	Facility available (number)	Unavailable (number)
Separate IT dept	4(A,B,D,G)	4(C,E,F,H)
Lease line	6 (A,B,C,E,F,H)	2 (D,G)
LAN	8	0
Separate net café/digital lib	4 (A,E,F,H)	4 (B,C,D,G)
Electricity backup/inverter	8	0
Antivirus	8	0
Login ID/password/firewall	8	0



Ethical Consideration

Informed consent is taken before starting the interview. Participation in survey is voluntary. If anyone disagrees to become part of the data collection process they will not be forced by any means.

Name of the colleges have been coded (A to H) to maintain the confidentiality.



Conclusion

Researchers though don't deny the fact that online learning is important but are not in completely favor of it. As they are more used to pursuing course through conventional and traditional classroom lectures.

They feel **the lack of human touch** and engagement in online learning which is very well present in conventional classroom lectures. Though many participants listed benefit of the enhancement of knowledge at a click of a button, just at the doorstep but still are a little unsatisfied with the virtual aspect of online learning.

They feel that online learning is beneficial only as **short** and add on courses.



The availability of internet connection is yet another hurdle. Sound internet connection is available at the medical colleges but their the participants are so engaged in their day to day routine activities that they are not in a position to devote time for online learning.

Furthermore the internet connection is not that sound when it comes to their personal connection.

Online courses can have their impact only if they are well accepted by the students which is possible when students don't face any problem while pursuing course online and when the courses are made more interactive by including online forum discussions, live chats, quick feedback, etc.



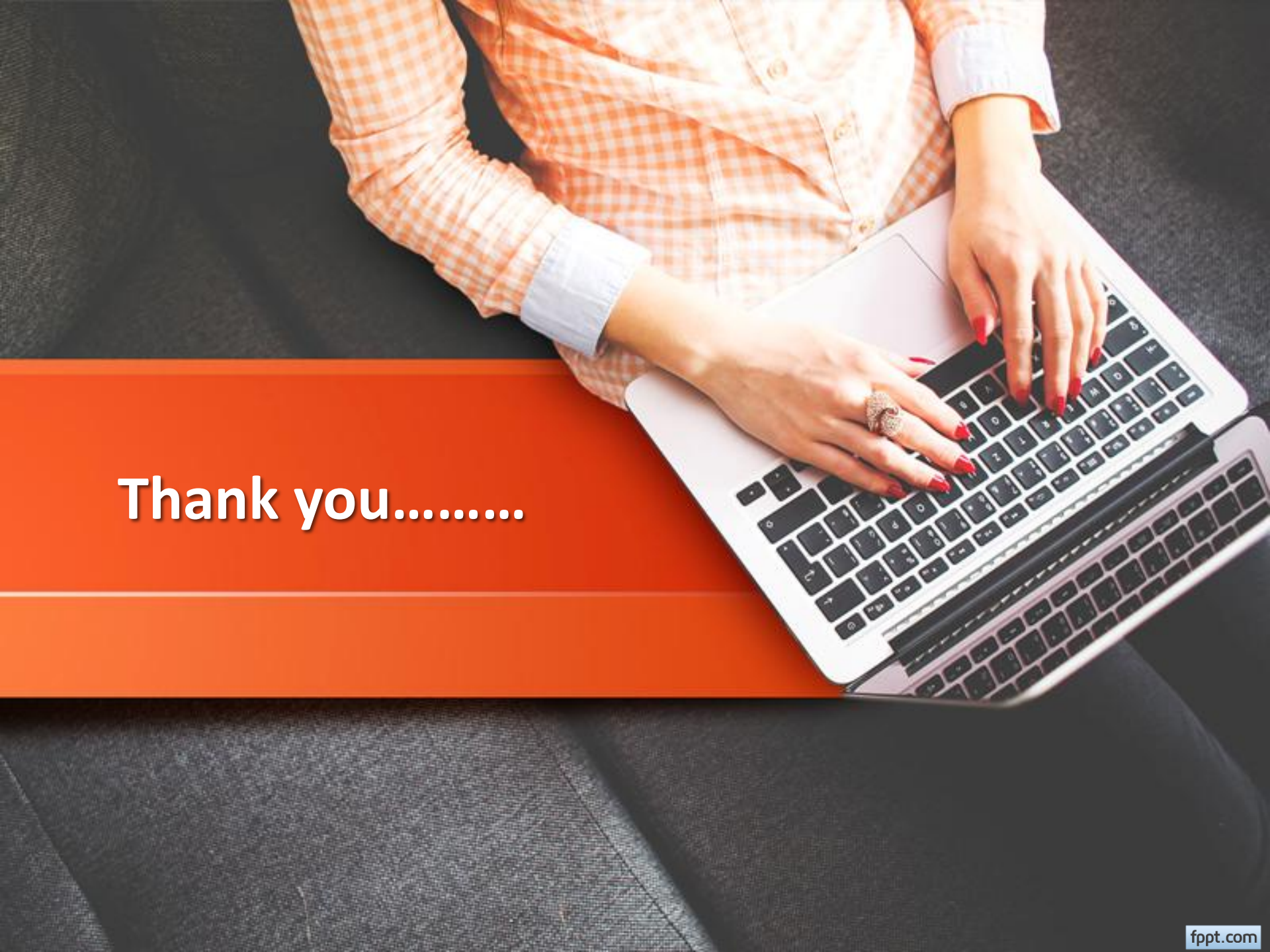
Further research can be done on the quality of the online courses and how these courses can be made more **interactive** like the traditional courses by incorporating live online chats, discussion forums, prompt feedback, etc so that the participants don't lack the element of “human touch” in the e-courses

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Thank you.....