

**Letter to the Editor, Calicut Medical Journal****Reply by the authors**

To the Editor,

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Joseph George for his in depth analysis of our article entitled "*Attitudes and views of 1<sup>st</sup> year medical students towards cadaver dissection in anatomy learning*" and for pointing out some limitations and offering constructive suggestions.

We do agree with the limitations pointed out by Joseph George. However, the following are clarified:

- i) While formulating the questionnaire, we never thought that these two questions will be the leading questions. It was a mere coincidence. In view of changing scenario with prosection, computerised learning aids, plastinized model etc, the first question may perhaps cannot be treated as a leading question.
- ii) As the objective of the study was explained clearly to all participants while obtaining their informed consent, there is little chance of having any participant bias from the students while responding to the questionnaire even though the anonymity of the questionnaire is not addressed.
- iii) We do agree with the observation that timing of the questionnaire delivery and response is important and relevant in such study. However, it is clarified that the questionnaire, in question, was delivered to the students after they have been exposed to the cadaver dissection session on two/three occasions.
- iv) The emotional responses of the students to cadaver dissection will not be affected much in the present study as the participant students belong to all North Eastern States of India, which by and large have a similar cultural background.
- v) Regarding the last point raised by Joseph, we have categorically mentioned in our article that more such similar investigations of the knowledge and attitudes of medical students regarding cadaver dissection are warranted.

**Dr. Rajkumari Ajita, M.S.**

Department of Anatomy,

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Manipur, INDIA

e-mail : [rajkumariajita1@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rajkumariajita1@yahoo.co.in)