

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXPLORATION OF FINAL YEAR STUDENTS' AND
ACADEMICIANS' VIEWS ON LIBERALISATION OF
PROVISIONALLY-REGISTERED PHARMACISTS' (PRP)
TRAINING**

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ABSTRACT

Background: A new liberalization policy has been implemented since 2012 that liberalizes the training of provisionally-registered pharmacists (PRPs) in Malaysia. This means pharmacy graduates are now allowed to do their pre-registration training at places other than the already saturated government hospitals. So far, the perceptions and views of pharmacy students and academicians regarding this liberalization are yet to be explored.

Objectives: This study attempted to explore the general views of students and academicians on the liberalization policy.

Methods: Data were collected through online mini-survey and interviews. The online survey was conducted using Survey Monkey online survey platform and analyzed using simple descriptive statistics. Semi-structured interviews were conducted and all face-to-face and phone interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. For interviews conducted via facebook chat, the online conversation was saved. The transcripts were analyzed using framework analysis.

Results: The majority of final-year students (77%) who responded to the online survey answered that they prefer to go to government hospitals for their PRP training. As for the interview, the main themes that were identified after analysis had been performed

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of study

In 2012, the Malaysian government had implemented a new policy that liberalizes the training of Provisionally Registered Pharmacists (PRPs) in the country. The implementation of this policy is because the Ministry of Health (MOH) can no longer provide adequate training places in government hospitals for the booming population of pharmacy graduates. The current policy will allow pharmacy graduates to enter their training as PRPs in community pharmacies, pharmaceutical industry plants, private hospitals as well as academic or research institutions that carry out research and development (R&D).

1.2. Problem statement

There aren't many studies that had been done to explore or assess the interest of pharmacy students for their training places with regard to current changes in policy. Their perceptions and expectation to be trained in premises other than MOH-run hospitals are yet to be determined.