

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF EPILEPSY
AMONG STUDENTS IN UiTM PUNCAK ALAM
CAMPUS**

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BACHELOR OF PHARMACY (Hons.)

2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am truly grateful to Almighty Allah S.W.T who in every instant of my life always helped me ahead of my thoughts and give me the strength of mental and physical and healthiness to finish this study.

It is a genuine pleasure to express my deep sense of thanks and appreciation to my generous supervisor, Mr Muhammad Anwar Nawab Khan who has always give the helpful advice, guidance and moral support in developing this final year project. Special thank to him for giving me the opportunity to work under his supervision and it was the most greatest experience in my life.

I am extremely thankful to my family for their constant encouragement throughout this study project and always listening to my problem. I am also want to thank to all my lecturer from Faculty of Pharmacy for their help and last but not least to all my friends and my research partner for their endless support and help for this research project.

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ABSTRACT

Epilepsy is a disease when there are hyper excitability of neuron and electrical storm forming in the brain. Epilepsy is most associated with stigma among the society and the patient often exposed to insult and humiliation due to lack of awareness and knowledge of epilepsy. This study is done in UiTM Puncak Alam to identify the level of awareness and knowledge of epilepsy among undergraduate students from seven different faculty. The questionnaire was divided into four part: demographic, awareness and previous experience of epilepsy, knowledge of epilepsy and knowledge of care during epileptic seizure. The questionnaires were distribute evenly between the seven faculty: faculty of pharmacy, faculty of health science, faculty of accountancy, faculty of business management, faculty of hotel and tourism management, faculty of art and design and faculty of education. The result was analyzed through the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0 and Microsoft Excel. From the finding, majority of the students were malay (95.7 %) and female (81.6 %) were higher compared to male (18.4 %) students. From the result, about (93.8 %) of students ever heard about epilepsy and only (7.6 %) had attended a seminar or talk of epilepsy. on the whole, only (11.1 %) of students that have their family members with epilepsy. In the part of the knowledge of epilepsy, only (26.2 %) know the cause of epilepsy, (62.4 %) didn't think epilepsy is a transmittable disease and (34.6 %) did think epilepsy is heritable. In the last part, (94.3 %) of students agree to keep away object during epileptic attack and only (7.3 %) did not agree to put something into the mouth of patient during seizure attack. In general, the level of awareness and knowledge among students in UiTM Puncak Alam was favorable.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

“Epilepsy is describe as two or more unprovoked seizures consequential in any abnormal clinical behavior of motor, sensory, psychic or autonomic dysfunction”. A seizure is defined as atypical clinical behavior that is resulted from excessive excitation of neurons (brain cells). Seizures or epilepsy is an abnormal function of the brain and it begin from the cortex that is rich in neurons (Anuradha, 2006). Epilepsy disorder is find out to be familiar among children at the first age and gradually decrease until age 10. The rate of epilepsy is increase back at age more than 55 as people develop strokes, brain tumors, or dementia which all can contribute to epilepsy disorder. People with a traumatic brain injury such as fall, blow to the head, gunshot wound or other traumatic injury are regularly get an epilepsy (Schachter, 2013).

Symptoms of seizure can range from instantly staring blankly to unconsciousness and uncontrollable spasm such as muscle harden or jerk out of control (Tse, 2015). During seizures, the physical change will occur to the epileptic people such as difficulty talking,