

Empowering Teacher's role for Quality Use of Medicine

The Know Your Medicine (KYM) programme was introduced in 2009 to support the fourth component of Malaysian National Medicines Policy (Dasar Ubat Nasional), which is "quality use of medicines". The objective mainly stresses ensuring that medicines are used rationally for better health outcomes. Multiple strategies are used to achieve the goals; among them are education, training, and providing accurate medicine information to consumers. Ensuring the quality use of medicines within the population is the responsibility of healthcare providers, including pharmacists.

The 2015 National Survey on the Use of Medicine III by Malaysian Consumers (NSUM III) reported that knowledge about the quality use of medicine is still lacking, despite the 'Know Your Medicine' programme having been implemented for six years since its initiation. Thus, a more rigorous effort is needed to increase awareness about the programme's existence. It is essential to promote this programme in every sector possible, including education.

Sharaideh et al. (1) mentioned that schoolchildren have a good comprehension of topics related to medicine, so integrating this into the school environment is deemed achievable and advantageous. Incorporating medicine knowledge into school syllabi is essential for promoting health education, disease prevention, first aid skills, career exploration, empathy, critical thinking, problem-solving, health literacy, and addressing global health challenges. It equips students with valuable knowledge and skills that contribute to their personal well-being and the betterment of society.

Teachers are regarded as potential health educators that may help promote the better well-being of the community, especially the schoolchildren. They are the primary source for acquiring reliable information about medicine, as students are less likely to visit pharmacies or healthcare providers without a parent company. With at least fifteen contact hours with the students per week, teachers are considered key informants when planning a medicine education program.

As prospective health advocates in school, it is of fundamental importance that the teachers are equipped with reliable information on the quality use of medicine as guided by the KYM modules. A module known as 'Kelab Doktor Muda' was introduced in 2006 by the Ministry of Education, and it was made official to be used by the Kelab Doktor Muda as part of the extracurricular activity. This module comprises a series of educational materials that aim to promote students' well-being in general. Some of the topics covered are 'Dental Care Practices', 'Environmental Protection and Conservation Practices', 'Mental Health', 'Healthy Lifestyle', and 'Know Your Medicine'.

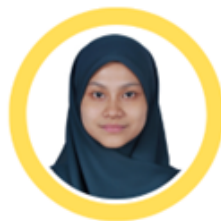




The scope of Know Your Medicine covered in this module includes the topics 'What is Medicine', '5R Use of Medicine', and 'Handling of Medicine' for primary school and 'What is Medicine' and 'Importance of Registered Drug Use' for secondary school. However, since the year it was made official, there has been no study looking at the students' and teachers' feedback and perceptions of the module. Thus, this study targeted understanding teachers' feedback about the 'Kelab Doktor Muda' module and obtaining their perceptions of the content and elements to be incorporated into the new KYM module for use in the school (KYM-S module).

References

1 . Sharaideh, R & Wazaify, Mayyada & Albsoul-Younes, Aba. (2013). Knowledge and attitude of schoolchildren in Amman/Jordan toward the appropriate use of medicines: A cross-sectional study. Saudi pharmaceutical Journal: SPJ : the official publication of the Saudi Pharmaceutical Society



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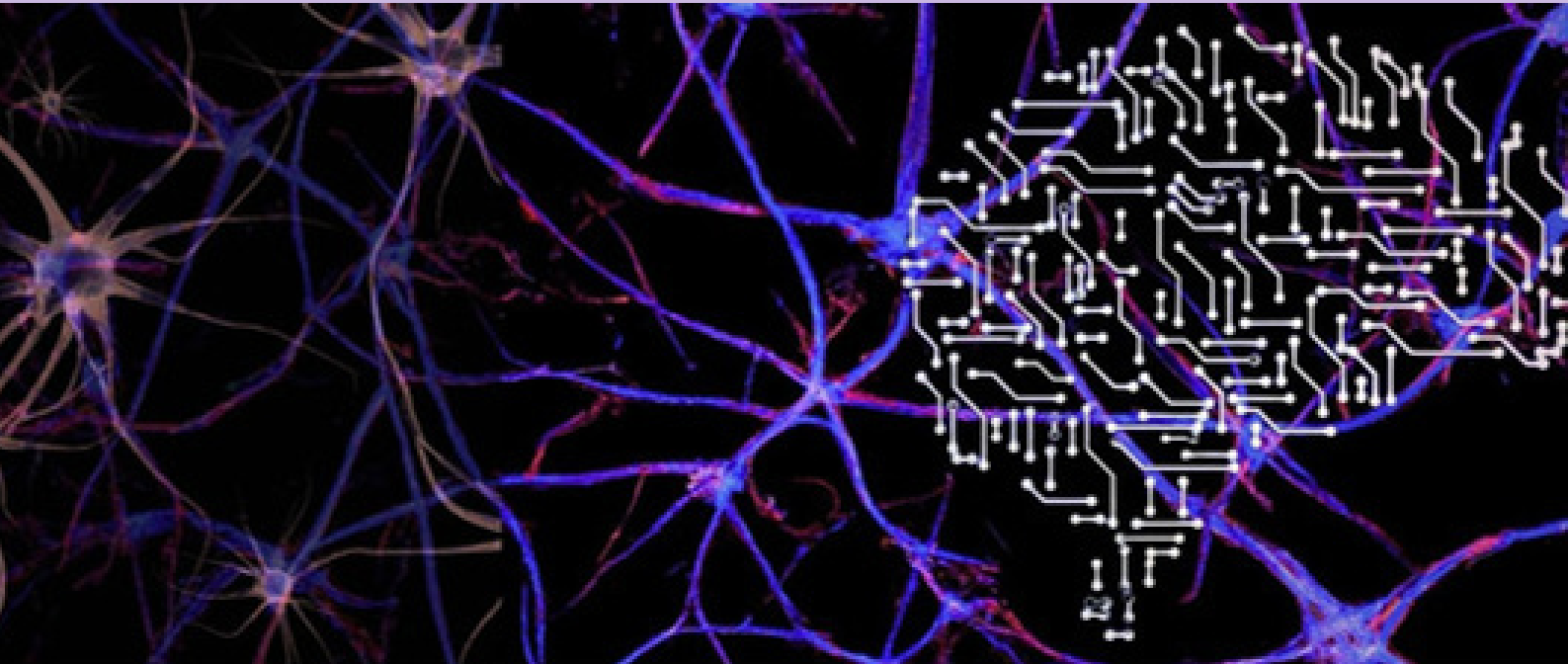
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