

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**PERCEPTION OF PHARMACY STUDENTS OF  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UiTM)  
PUNCAK ALAM TOWARDS BLENDED LEARNING**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>APPROVAL SHEET</b>	ii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	iii
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	iv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	vii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	ix
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	x
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	xi

### CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background Of Study .....	1
1.2	Problem Statements .....	2
1.3	Research Questions .....	3
1.4	Research Objectives .....	4
1.4.1	General Objective.....	4
1.4.2	Specific Objectives.....	4
1.5	Research Hypothesis .....	5
1.6	Significance Of Study .....	5
1.7	Limitations Of Study .....	5

### CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	History Of Blended Learning .....	6
2.2	Definition Of Blended Learning.....	8
2.3	Usage Of Blended Learning In Malaysia .....	10
2.4	Advantages And Limitations Of Blended Learning .....	12
2.5	Students' Perception Towards Blended Learning .....	16

## **ABSTRACT**

This study focuses on exploring perceptions of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Puncak Alam pharmacy students regarding the advantages and limitations of a type of integrated learning, called blended learning. This study also determines pharmacy students' perceptions on the options of suggestions to improve the quality of blended learning and identify association between level of students' computer literacy and their perceptions towards blended learning by using Pearson Correlation test. Primary data was utilized for this study which was collected by distributing questionnaires to all pharmacy students of UiTM Puncak Alam from First Year until Fourth Year. The respondents consist of 491 pharmacy students where each of them completed 38 items questionnaire. This study found that regardless of the age and year of study, 88% of the pharmacy students disagree that online learning is a waste of time and there is no association between level of students' computer literacy and their perceptions towards blended learning. The main reason why the students enjoy learning in a blended learning environment is because of it allows them to reduce their total travel time each week and related expenses. However, most of them clearly showed their dissatisfaction on the slow internet connectivity problem which has become a major barrier for them to experience the best blended learning experience. Such perceptions must be taken seriously by the faculty and they have to take actions by finding the best ways to overcome and solve these problems in order to provide a good quality of blended learning environment to the pharmacy students.

**Keywords :** Blended learning, perceptions, pharmacy students, advantages, limitations, suggestions, association, computer literacy, Pearson Correlation.

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) is a higher learning institution that has the largest amount of population and campuses in Malaysia. It has been established since 1956. More than 500 academic programmes are offered in the university including pharmacy programme. Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM was established on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2001 and it is opened for students' intake since 2002 for four years programme of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) programme.

This faculty is expected to achieve a world standard in providing pharmacy programme by 2006. In order to achieve the target, the faculty had coming up with a plan which is a 2006-2015 strategic plan. The plan consists of five strategic initiatives which are global studentship, creative research, ethics and governance, university-industry linkages and new or future knowledge. One of the faculty efforts to ensure that the strategic plan is successful is they introduced blended learning to the students.

Blended learning is a type of learning environment or mode which blend traditional face-to-face learning environment together with online learning environment which can be accessed through private computer, smart phone, tablet and other