

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**PHARMACY STUDENTS' INTERPROFESSIONAL
PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE PHARMACY
PROFESSION IN MALAYSIA**

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ABSTRACT

Inter-professional collaboration is a health care model that integrates and promotes the teamwork between health care professionals from different backgrounds. The purpose of this study is to investigate the inter-professional perception of pharmacy students towards the pharmacy profession in Malaysia. Online questionnaire evaluating the inter-professional perception of pharmacy students consisting of two sections were distributed through Google Form to pharmacy students around Malaysia. The response rate was 50.7% with 82% of the respondents coming from female students. Overall, pharmacy students in Malaysia have a generally positive perception towards inter-professional collaboration. Third and fourth year students have higher scores compared to first and second year students. Exposure to previous or current hospital or community training seemed to have a huge influence in students' inter-professional perception scores. The results on factor-based classification scores were also similar. Students who attended seminar or conference within the last six months showed a higher score in Factor 3. In conclusion, third and fourth year, as well as students who have undergone their hospital or community training generally have a positive inter-professional perception.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Through the past 10 to 15 years, the emphasis of pharmacy practice has shifted from focusing on drugs and their distribution patterns to patient-centered approach (Siracuse et al., 2008). In developed countries, pharmacy profession has advanced as a core part in the healthcare system. The pharmacy profession is now inching towards achieving therapeutic goals through the utilization of the concept of multidisciplinary team-based approaches.

Transformation in the healthcare system revealed that clinician alone cannot provide the skills and knowledge needed to deliver an all rounded care. With the increase in population age as well as emerging variation of new diseases, healthcare professionals are expected to provide the best care for patients (Lee et al., 2009). Hence, it is really beneficial to form