

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**SURVEY OF METHODS UTILIZED FOR
TEACHING OF UNDERGRADUATES AMONGST
MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES
LECTURERS**

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ABSTRACT

This survey is done to determine whether blended learning which incorporates non-traditional teaching and learning (T&L) methods is an effective means of delivering undergraduate curricula in medical and health sciences. These programmes contain difficult curricula content thus an effective T&L strategy would aid in the attainment of learning objectives and inculcate self-directed, continuous learning amongst students. Thus, educators need to deliver curricula content via effective T&L processes so that students obtain a strong grounding in core subjects. Many teaching strategies are available, these are broadly divided into two, viz traditional teaching methods (didactic lectures, tutorials, laboratory-based practical) and non-traditional teaching methods (problem-based learning (PBL), computer-aided learning (CAL), case-based learning (CBL), video learning and learning from seminars or workshops). This survey is a cross-sectional study and the data were analyzed using SPSS version 21.0 and Microsoft Excel 2010. Questionnaires (143) were distributed to lecturers from the Faculties of Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, UiTM, in early March 2016 but only 85 were returned by end of April 2016. Majority of the lecturers (n= 79) prefer blended learning (combination of both traditional and non-traditional methods) in teaching undergraduate students. Blended learning is seen to be as the best method for curricula delivery by lecturers from medicine and health science disciplines. Most commonly used non-traditional teaching methods is PBL. All lecturers teach curricula content via lectures. Majority of lecturers are somewhat satisfied on the resources available and show positive attitudes towards the non-traditional methods of T&L.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

This research is conducted to study the methods of teaching undergraduate students amongst lecturers of medical and health sciences faculties in Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). These include the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry in UiTM Sungai Buloh Campus and Faculties of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in UiTM Puncak Alam Campus. Study participants are lecturers who are involved in the teaching of pre-clinical undergraduate medical students, undergraduate students of faculties of pharmacy, dentistry and the health sciences. Lecturers drive the teaching and learning process in class to ensure students received knowledge in accordance to course learning objectives and program objectives. Curricula in the medical and health sciences are designed to deliver evidence-based knowledge as backed by scientific data, in line with evidence-based practices in the medical and health sciences. The professions of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry nursing, optometry, dietetics, physiotherapy are governed by statutes and practitioners of these professions are registered by their respective professional bodies or councils. It is important that students of these professional programmes attain a firm grasp of core curricula content and undertake continuous, self-directed learning so as to be abreast of current knowledge in their respective professions. Graduates of these professional programmes must be competent for practice as all have direct responsibility towards