

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE EFFECTS OF EXERCISE AND
BEHAVIOURAL PROGRAM ON EXERCISE
ADHERENCE, EXERCISE SELF-EFFICACY
AND FUNCTIONAL STATUS AMONG
COMMUNITY-DWELLING OLDER
PERSONS**

NOOR AZLIYANA BT AZIZAN

Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Faculty of Health Sciences

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CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS

I certify that a panel of examiners has met on 30th November 2015 to conduct the final examination of Noor Azliyah Binti Azizan on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “The Effects of Exercise and Behavioural Program on Exercise Adherence, Exercise Self-Efficacy and Functional Status among Community-Dwelling Older Persons” with Universiti Teknologi Mara ACT 1976 (Akta 173). The panel of Examiners recommends that the student be awarded the relevant degree. The panel of Examiners was as follows:

Zulkhairi Amom, PhD
Professor Dr
Faculty of Health Sciences
Universiti Teknologi MARA
(Chairman)

Akhesan B. Hj Dahlan, PhD
Dr
Faculty of Health Sciences
Universiti Teknologi MARA
(Internal Examiner)

Hjh. Ayiesah Hj Ramli, PhD
Associate Professor Dr
Faculty of Health Sciences
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
(External Examiner)

Jane Culpan, PhD
Professor Dr
School of Health Sciences
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
(External Examiner)

SITI HALIJJAH SHARIFF, PhD
Associate Professor
Dean
Institute of Graduates Studies
Universiti Teknologi MARA
Date: 3rd February, 2016

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Student	:	Noor Azliyana Bt Azizan
Student I.D. No.	:	2011656948
Programme	:	Doctor of Philosophy
Faculty	:	Health Sciences
Thesis Title	:	The Effects of Exercise and Behavioural Program on Exercise Adherence, Exercise Self-Efficacy and Functional Status among Community-Dwelling Older Persons.

Signature of Student:

Date : February 2016

ABSTRACT

Exercise is an integral component in the maintenance of health status among older persons. Unfortunately, it is difficult for sedentary older persons to continue and adhere to exercise training for a long term. The possible causes might be due to low level of exercise adherence and exercise self-efficacy (ESE). Thus, an intervention is needed to change this typical sedentary behaviour as it predicts physical activity participation. This study aimed to determine the effects of exercise and behavioural program on exercise adherence, ESE, functional status (physical and psychological functions) among community-dwelling older persons. Sixty-three participants (above 60-year-old) from three different villages voluntarily participated and grouped as (i) Exercise and Behaviour Group, EBG (n=18), (ii) Exercise Group, EG (n=23) and (iii) Control Group, CG (n=22). The participants in EBG received a 6-week group-based multi-component exercise training followed by a 5-week behavioural program. While, the participants in EG received the same exercise prescribed to EBG. The participants in CG did not receive any interventions, but they were asked to continue their daily physical activities and other normal routines. The exercise consisted of endurance, strength, balance, flexibility and loco-motor training for one hour per sessions, three times a week for a duration of six weeks. The behaviour program was delivered following the termination of the 6-week exercise training, for 30-minute per session, twice a week for duration of five weeks. Outcomes (score for exercise adherence, ESE, fear of falls, depression and quality of life and score for balance performance, upper and lower limb muscle strength, exercise tolerance, upper and lower limb flexibility) of the intervention were measured by single-blinded assessors. Results from the repeated measures ANOVA showed significant differences between groups due to time factor (All, $p < 0.05$), group and time interaction (All, $p < 0.05$) and between-group factor (All, $p < 0.05$) for exercise adherence, ESE, balance, FoF, Right UL Left UL and LL strength, and exercise tolerance, respectively. However, significant results for flexibility were only shown for the right LL at time factor [$F(3.44,206.12)=7.53$], group and time interaction, [$F(6.87,206.12)=3.26$] and between-group factor [$F(2,60)=0.86$] (All, $p < 0.05$). Analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) (controlling for baseline performance and age) for depression [$F(2,58) = 33.49$], physical summary score, PCS [$F(2,58) = 5.33$] and mental summary score [$F(2,56) = 4.08$] (All $p < 0.05$) showed significant main effects among groups with the EBG presented less level of depression and higher scores for PCS and MCS. As a conclusion, the combination of exercise and behavioural program may be a promising intervention rather than exercise training alone in enhancing exercise adherence, ESE, and functional status of older persons residing in the community.

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