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PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) DIETARY AND MEDICINE: PHARMACY STUDENTS’ ASSESSMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

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Abstract: Pharmacists are the profession in a healthcare who are responsible for the safety and effective use of the pharmaceutical drugs. Besides learning the subject related to pharmaceutic and pharmacotherapy, the pharmacy students at Universiti Teknologi MARA Pulau Pinang, also need to study on Islamic medicine. In pharmacotherapy, the students were taught on the scientific view on drug and biology interaction. But the knowledge of scientific evidence based on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine among students are remain uncertain. The aim of this study was to assess the students’ comprehension on a newly developed syllabus that focus on the scientific evidence based on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine. This study was conducted at Universiti Teknologi MARA Pulau Pinang, Malaysia among first year pharmacy students. The pre and post-knowledge of the students on scientific evidence based on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine before and after the new syllabus of has been determined. A paired t test was used to compare the knowledge level of respondents, pre- (M=9.17, SD=4.29) and post assessment (M=27.27 SD=4.71). On average, the knowledge of respondents after exposing with the new syllabus were significantly higher, where t (137)=−37.69, p<0.001) than the pre intervention. Our findings inspired that a scientific evidence based of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine syllabus could be a new approach of pharmacy education in Malaysia..

Key words: Pharmacy, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), scientific evidence, Malaysia and medicine

INTRODUCTION

The modernization of treatment in health are not completely effective and many patients are intolerant with the drugs (Neila et al. 2018). In some cases, the patient’s condition deteriorates due to drug adverse effects or treatment intolerance. Thus, complementary alternative medicines (CAM) has become the second choice of treatment among patients. CAM includes Malay traditional medicine (Raja Ikram & Abd Ghani, 2015), Indian traditional medicine, Ayurveda (Menon & Shukla, 2017), Chinese traditional medicines and practices like acupuncture (Aung & Chen, 2007) and many others. Islamic Medicine is defined as any practice which the basic concepts, contents, and procedures conform to or do not contradict the Qur’an and Sunnah (Kasule 1995).

Pharmacy is one of the field of study that basically focus on the science and technique of preparing and dispensing drugs. Therefore, this study aimed to introduce a module of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine and assess the pharmacy student’s understanding before and after the introduction of new syllabus.
OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study was to assess the students’ comprehension on a newly developed syllabus that focus on the scientific evidence based on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine.

METHODOLOGY

This assessment of the syllabus was conducted at Universiti Teknologi MARA Pulau Pinang, Bertam campus, Malaysia. A total of 138 of first year pharmacy students were invited to participate in this study. The protocol of study had been approved by the university Research Ethic Committee.

A set of validated questionnaire had been used and consisted three different sections. Section A consist of demographic data and section B was the assessment on basic knowledge of definition on Quran, Sunnah and Prophetic medicine. Last section was section C that consisted of questions on the scientific facts of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine. The participants were given the questionnaire before they were exposed with the new syllabus of the scientific evidence based on the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine. Then the students were given a series of lectures on the 12 topics of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine by the authors. After completed the lecture series, the respondents were given the same set of questionnaire for post-evaluation. The outcomes from the survey were analysed using SPSS Statistic version 20. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the data in this study.

FINDINGS

After exposing the students with our new content of syllabus, the student’s acceptance on the new module of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine were determined. Figure below shows that 92% of students agreed that the content of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine were relevant to the pharmacy syllabus. They claimed that the content could help the students to look at the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine differently and scientifically. Nevertheless, 8% of the respondent, were unsure to suggest the scientific evidence based of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine as a part of pharmacy curriculum. This could be because that there are existing pharmacy courses which are demanding, and students might afraid of the additional burden from the new module. Basically, the scientific evidence based Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine is like pharmaceutical approach of Islamic revelation and hadith study. This might be the reason of “unsure” status among 8% of these respondents. None of the respondents rejected the suggestion of new syllabus to be part of the pharmacy curriculum subject. This finding was almost similar to Jamilah et al. (2014), the students understood the need of having knowledge related to Islamic practices in the pharmacy curriculum.
CONCLUSION

Since Islam is the official religion, our study suggested that our newly developed syllabus is practical and relevant for pharmacy students or maybe also suitable for all students regardless their major courses. The development and improvement of the syllabus which is related to pharmacy and medical sciences in Islam would be useful in increasing the level of knowledge among students. This study also inspired the teaching institutions to adopt new and relevant syllabus. We believed that scientific evidence based module of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine is a new and interesting approach in education in Malaysia. The students need to have an official and proper learning process of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine to ensure they gain sufficient information on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which is verified by the hadith specialists. Besides that, students also need to be well equipped with the ability of analysing the explanation of the social practice, confusion and issues raised about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine scientifically. This would later help in their professional practices in educating patients. Further studies involving students, educators and other health practitioners are required for validation in supporting this new syllabus in the teaching pharmacy or medical students about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) dietary and medicine.

SELECTIVE REFERENCES