

C-42 SELF-PERCEIVED COMPETENCE AND CONFIDENCE IN CONDUCTING PHARMACY PRACTICE RESEARCH



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INTRODUCTION

Pharmacy practice research is essential in generating new insights for improving the therapeutic use of medicines and health outcomes. There is a lack of national or local data on competence in conducting practice-based research among hospital pharmacists in Malaysia. This study aimed at exploring the research background of pharmacists in Miri General Hospital, evaluating their self-perceived competence and confidence as well as barriers in conducting pharmacy practice research.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

- This was a cross-sectional study on hospital pharmacists practicing in Miri General Hospital using a 64-item adapted questionnaire by *AbuBakar et al.*
- Both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were applied using IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences, version 21.

RESULTS

Table 1: Research background and interest of hospital pharmacists in conducting health-related research

	Frequency (%)
Previous research experience	
Yes	48 (80.0)
No	12 (20.0)
Previous research related training	
Yes	39 (65.0)
No	21 (35.0)
Interest in conducting health-related research	
Yes	24 (40.0)
No	36 (60.0)
Number of peer-reviewed journal articles published within the last 5 years	
0	42 (70.0)
1-3	17 (28.3)
≥4	1 (1.7)
Number of peer-reviewed posters and/or abstracts in local/regional conference since last 5 years	
0	48 (80.0)
1-3	11 (18.3)
≥4	1 (1.7)

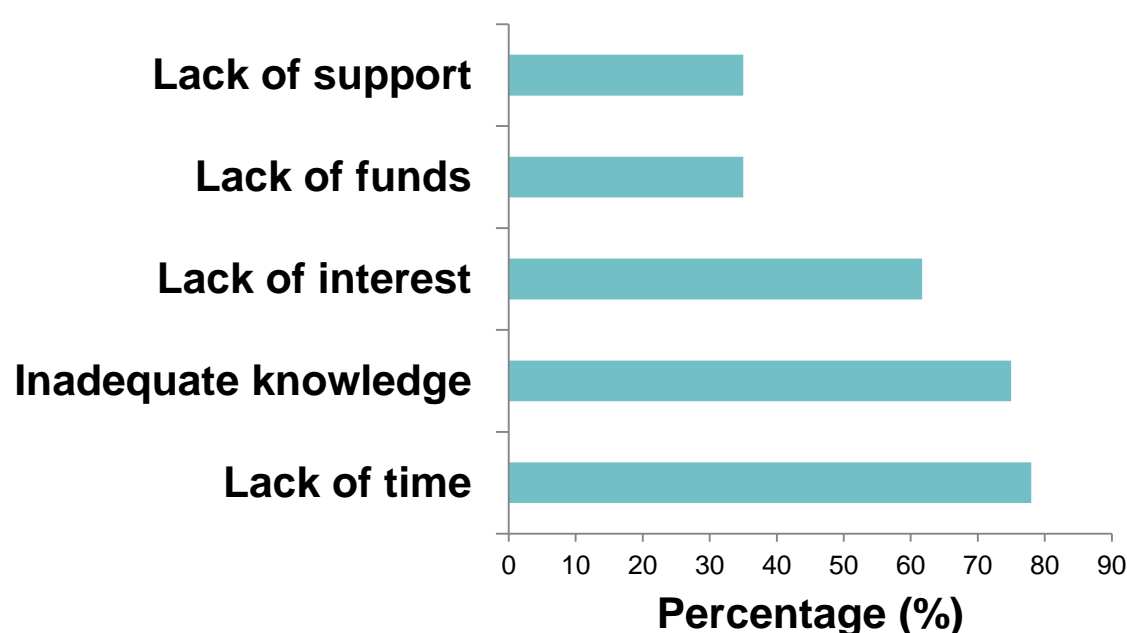


Figure 1: Pharmacist identified barriers to research

RESULTS (Cont)

Table 2: Self-perceived competence and confidence of hospital pharmacist

Research domain	Self-perceived competency		Self-perceived confidence	
	Competent	Not competent	Confident	Not confident
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Searching the literature efficiently	68.3	31.7	56.7	43.3
Appropriate study designs or methods	40	60	41.7	58.3
Sample size determination	45	55	40	60
Appropriate sampling technique	43.3	56.7	41.7	58.3
Outlining detailed statistical plans	41.7	58.3	43.3	56.7
Developing and validating a study instrument	41.7	58.3	43.3	56.7
Managing and storing data	68.3	31.7	68.3	31.7
Statistical analyses using software	36.7	63.3	41.7	58.3
Applying "INFERENCE" statistical tests and methods	30	70	36.7	63.3
Interpretation of the findings	65	35	58.3	41.7

DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSION

- A large portion of hospital pharmacists in Miri Hospital self-assessed themselves as lacking competence and confidence in several aspects of research competencies, especially in proposing appropriate study designs and methods as well as in biostatistics.
- Our findings reflected low scholarly productivity among pharmacists. It is important to emphasize that researchers are ethically obliged to at least make an attempt to publish or present their research findings.
- Pharmacy leaders should take initiative to provide supports to pharmacists in overcoming the barriers so that they can actively take part in research in their place of practice.
- Informal research training programs are recommended to specifically tackle the knowledge and competency insufficiency among hospital pharmacists in conducting pharmacy practice research.

References:

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