



Self-evaluation of medical students on the elective research course

Rasidah Abd Wahab¹, Zunika Amit²

¹Medical Education Unit, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia, ²Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia

ARTICLE INFO

Received : 21/03/2013
Accepted : 16/12/2013
Published : 09/03/2014

KEYWORD

Elective research course
Medical student
Self-evaluation

ABSTRACT

The significance of learning research methodology and performing research has been accepted by various medical schools in Malaysia as well as in other countries. The aim of integrating research into medical curriculum is to inculcate the research culture and form part of the evidence-based practice among medical professionals. Hence, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak has incorporated the research component into the preclinical year of the medical curriculum. A survey was conducted to gauge the second year medical students' level of knowledge of research process at the end of the course using a set of questionnaires. Seventy nine of second year medical students participated in the study. The outcome of the study shows significant improvement in the students' knowledge on research components after completing the one year course ($p < .05$). Our findings suggest that the course has met its main objectives to make the students better understand the research processes. It is recommended that further evaluation should be conducted to refine the course.

© Medical Education Department, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia. All rights reserved.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Rasidah Abd Wahab, Medical Education Unit, Faculty of Medicine & Health Science, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Lot.77, Sect.22, K.T.L.D., Jln Tun Ahmad Zaidi, 93150 Kuching, Sarawak. Email: awrasida@fmhs.unimas.my

Introduction

The early exposure to undergraduate research is considered essential in a modern undergraduate medical curriculum [1, 3]. The introduction of research component into the undergraduate curriculum has been discussed at length in a variety of disciplines including engineering, medicine, biology, physiology, neuroscience, psychology and so forth. There are numerous benefits for undergraduate students to get involve in conducting research. It allows students to better understand published works, enhance their team-building, explore their research

interest and learn how to conduct research [2]. The students' awareness on opportunities to conduct research and making choices of their own research skills are essential to entrench a research culture into undergraduate medical education [3, 7].

A few studies have stated the importance of incorporating training in research as part of medical education. Doing research is essential to inculcate critical thinking, reasoning skills and to develop positive attitudes towards scientific research amongst medical students from the beginning of their carrier. The studies also show