

A Study to Investigate the Perception of First Year Pharmacy Student of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta Towards the Pharmacy Profession

Nelly Suryani, Yardi

Pharmacy Department

Faculty of medicine and health sciences, State Islamic University

Jakarta, Indonesia

nelly_suryani@uinjkt.ac.id

Abstract--The focus of pharmacy education has shifted from product oriented to patient centre care. In the case of patient oriented, Pharmacist plays an important role in assuring the efficacy of drug to patient and preventing patient from the adverse drug event. In doing this responsibility, a pharmacist should serve their patient directly. Anybody who choose the profession should aware and run it with all their heart and sincerely. This study aimed to describe the perception of first year pharmacy student toward the pharmacy profession that they choose. Views and attitudes of first year pharmacy student were explored by a questionnaire survey towards the Pharmacy profession. The result showed most of student knew the pharmacy field before they enter the pharmacy institution. Fifty five percent of them chose pharmacy as their first choice.Twenty five percent of them claimed that they feel dissatisfied about their choice in studying in pharmacy department. Most of the student claimed that they knew very well about the scope of pharmacy profession. The pharmacy department head and team need to support the unsatisfied student in order to make them love pharmacy study and pharmacy profession.

Keywords--perception; pharmacist; pharmacy profession; pharmacy student

I. INTRODUCTION

The focus of pharmacy education has shifted from product oriented to patient centre care[1]. Pharmaceutical care has been getting many attention from pharmacy school in Indonesia as well as in the world in las few decades. Pharmaceutical care is the form of pharmacist responsibility as one of healthcare profession[2,3]. Trough pharmaceutical care , Pharmacist plays an important role in assuring the efficacy of drug to patient and preventing patient from the adverse drug event[4]. Giving caring to patients trough pharmaceutica care, pharmacist need to have empathy, awareness, and to run it with all their heart and sincerely

To be pharmacist in Indonesia, the students have to complete a four years bachelor course and one year of profession course. Bachelor course curriculum consists of classroom and laboratory practical ones. On the other hand, profession course takes one semester in classroom and the rest semester is in the form of field study such as pharmacy industry, hospital, community pharmacy (apotech), public health centre and government office[5].

Y. Joshi and R. Pant in their study reported in India that based the student's perception towards pharmacy education was seems to be very poor and survey also revealed poor inclination towards pharmacy as a profession. Student's perception on scope and contribution was found to be unsatisfactory[6]. This research aimed to investigate the perception of first year pharmacy students of UIN Syarif Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia toward the pharmacy profession.

II. METHODS

This is the descriptive research design with cross-sectional approach. Views and attitudes of first year pharmacy student were explored by a questionnaire survey towards the Pharmacy profession. Questionnaire consist of 9 questions that explore the view and perception of students. The students were all first year pharmacy student in pharmacy department of faculty of medicine and health science, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia. Eight question were closed-questions to maximize the response rate. One was open-question to see the student desire.

Questionare was adapted from Yogesh Joshi and Reena Pant by modification[6]. Questions which in the questionaire were as follows : the responden sex, decision behind their choice to study in pharmacy, their knowledge about the pharmacy before their decision, the order of their choice in selecting pharmacy, Their satisfaction after decision, their most favorite profesion beside pharmacist, their knowledge about the scope of pharmacy profession job

filed, their plan after graduation from pharmacy. Univariate analysis was used to describe the variables.

III. RESULT

The one hundred first year pharmacy students completed to answer the questionnaire. Ninety percent of students were female. The decision behind students choice to study in pharmacy course was showed in fig.1. Sixty seven percent of them decided to study in pharmacy by their own decision. Family member placed the second order by 19%. The rest were on the advice of friends, school teacher and others. Ninety seven percent of students admitted that they had ever heard about pharmacy before they decided to study in it.

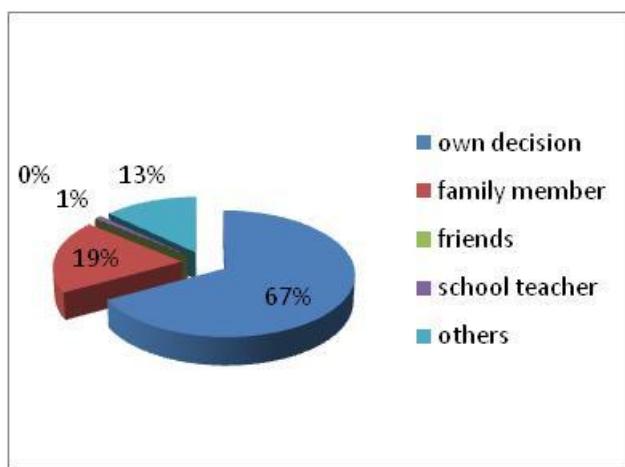


Fig. 1 The decision behind the student choice to study in pharmacy

Fig. 2 showed the student preferred choice when they followed the national test to enroll the university. Fifty five percent of them chose pharmacy as their first choice. Pharmacy was chosen as the second choice by 35% of student and the rest admitted that pharmacy was their third choice.

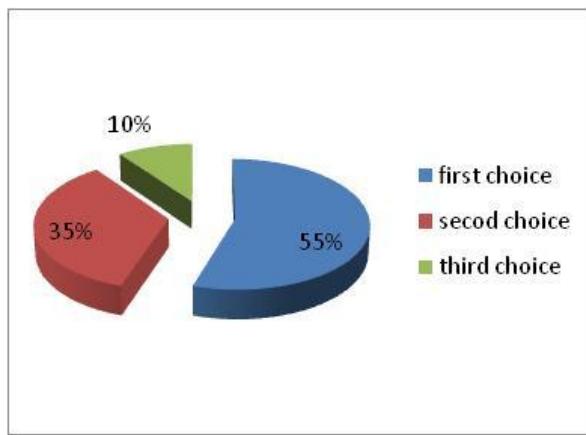


Fig. 2 Student order of choice to study in pharmacy

Twenty percent of students said that they felt unsatisfied about their choice. The course that they preferred to enroll can

be seen in fig. 3. Medicine course was mostly chosen by the unsatisfied students followed by psychology, architect, arabic language and literature and school of service.

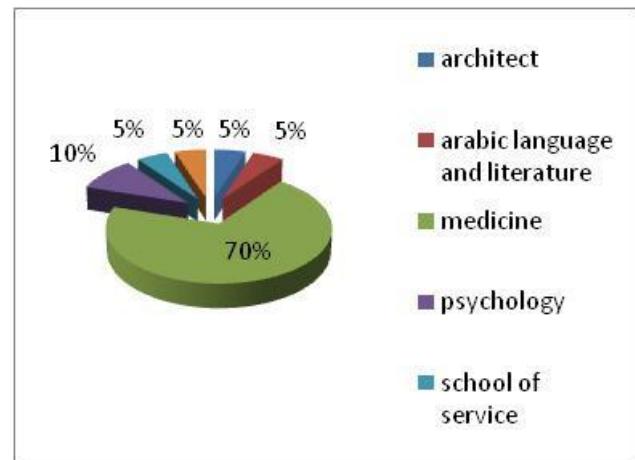


Fig. 3 Course are mostly prefered by unsatisfied students

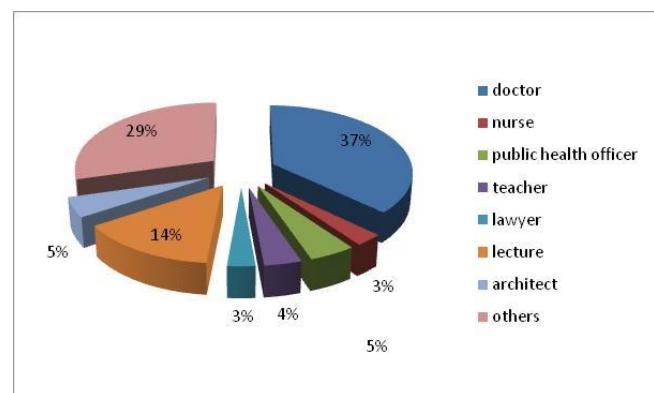


Fig. 4 Profession that students like beside pharmacist

The student said that they knew the scope of pharmacy profession workfiled (81%). Fig. 5 showed the students plan to work after graduation. Most of them wanted to continue to the higher pharmacy education (39%) followed by industrial pharmacy, hospital, community pharmacy and others.

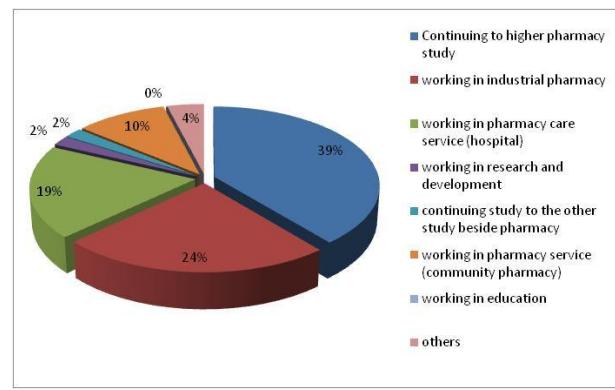


Fig. 5 Students plan after graduation from pharmacy course

IV. DISCUSSION

Pharmacist profession in the last few decades face the role shift from product oriented to patient focus centre. Pharmacy curriculum in Pharmacy department of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta as well as in Indonesia always try to adapt that shift by adopting more subjects correspond to health/patient care such as pharmacology, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapy, pharmaceutical care, clinical pharmacy, pharmacy practice and the others[5,7]. Although the newer curriculum is more oriented to patient but it's proportion is still less if compared to curriculum in developed country such as America. Most of pharmacy institution in Indonesia still combine the pharmacy science and patient oriented pharmacy while in America, they have pharmacy science and pharmaceutical Doctor (Pharm. D) course[8,9]. This means that pharmacy students in Indonesia have wide range of subjects to study. They have to learn about pharmacy science and pharmacy patient focus during the study. The student should consider this before they enroll to pharmacy department.

The 67% of students chose pharmacy course by the own decision. The rest was influenced by family member, friends, school teachers and others. This finding is different from what Nurwahidah reported that mostly student decided their choice in to study in social science education in Education faculty of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta[10]. Family member has superior influence for student in choosing their study above other factors. This finding is similar to Kristina Koo et al reported. Pharmacy is one of the most difficult major to study as what ranked by Tab in america[11]. It means that a pharmacy students need to give their hard and extra effort in order to get the best achievement during the study. As one of the healthcare team later, they have to work with their soul. Pharmacy department head and supervisor lecture have to take an active role to encourage their all students especially for them that pharmacy was not their first choice. They need to be guided to adapt to the pharmacy academic atmosphere and to get much information and knowledge about pharmacy profession.

Pharmacy students which want to get career in pharmacy care centre (hospital and community) is 17.81% whereas this work field are actually relevant to the position of pharmacist (pharmacy profession) as one of health profession that contact directly to patient. Other work fields are more relevant to pharmacy science. The student desire to work after graduation in hospital is similar from the real condition. Many hospitals in Indonesia are still lack of pharmacist. To prepare students to be a hospital pharmacist, subjects related to clinical pharmacy have to be added into curriculum in a larger number. This addition is important to give students enough knowledge before they work together with other healthcare profession in hospital.

Students that want to work in community pharmacy after their graduation is 10%. It seems that community pharmacy does not attract student attention very much. This

is different from the real condition. Almost 50% of pharmacist in Indonesia is registered as pharmacist in charge in community pharmacy[12]. Pharmacist role in community is very important because they can meet and consult the patient who come to their pharmacy[13,14]. To conduct this, pharmacy student need to have communication skill during their study.

It is time to evaluate the pharmacy education in Indonesia to evaluate the pharmacy curriculum. American pharmacy education system as the example of developed country may be adapted. In the developed country as America and Canada, The role of pharmacist that have focused to patient has developed faster than Indonesia pharmacist. It is time to Indonesia pharmacy education to consider to separate pharmacy science and clinical pharmacy

V. CONCLUSION

First years pharmacy student is well known about the scope of pharmacist profession career. They still need to follow wide range of pharmacy curriculum that accommodate pharmacy science and patient oriented pharmacy. Pharmacy education should consider the curriculum which meet the work field need and that enhance the student competence.

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