

Building research capacity: A cross-sectional survey of Indonesian Pharmacists

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Abstract—**Background.** Pharmacy practice research became an important component in the evidence-based practice among pharmacists. Thus, there is a need to develop pharmacy practice research capacity among Indonesian pharmacists. **Objective.** To assess Indonesian pharmacists' attitude towards research and barriers/facilitators to participation in research. **Method:** A questionnaire survey was administered among hospital pharmacists (in a public hospital in Malang) as well as health centre pharmacists and community pharmacists (in Surabaya) during seminars conducted in the two major cities in East Java, Indonesia. Responses were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results.** A total of 142 pharmacists (i.e., 49 hospital pharmacists, 45 health centre pharmacists, and 51 community pharmacists) completed the questionnaire. Hospital pharmacists reported higher levels of experience and interest in conducting research compared to those in health centres and community pharmacies ($p < 0.005$). However, most pharmacists perceived lack of ability to design and conduct research (hospital pharmacists 45.7%, health centre pharmacists 53.3%, community pharmacists 70.6%; $p < 0.005$). While pharmacists were generally positive in response to the attitudinal items towards research; they were less sure of resources to conduct research as well as access to administrative, statistical and technological support – in particular, those working in health centres and community pharmacies. Pharmacists in those settings were also generally unsure of many aspects relating to research culture and support from others. **Conclusion.** Indonesian pharmacists in this study demonstrated a positive attitude towards pharmacy practice research, however lack of research skills and barriers related to support and research culture were reported. These findings should be used as a basis for national and professional institutions to develop policies and strategies to encourage research and improve pharmacists' skill in conducting quality research.

Key words: pharmacy practice, research capacity, pharmacist, Indonesia
