

Career Preferences, Leadership Attitudes and Research Interests among Homeopathic Students of Lahore, Pakistan

Atif Raza¹, Zikria Saleem^{1,2*}, Muhammad Zubair Qureshi³, Asia Raza³, Syeda Zurriat Abbas³
Farhat Yasmeen³

¹University College of Pharmacy, University of the Punjab, AllamaIqbal Campus, Lahore, Pakistan.

²School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia.

³Pakistan Homeopathic College, Hospital and Research Center, Lahore, Pakistan.

*zikria@gmail.com

***Corresponding Author:** Zikria Saleem, Section of Pharmacy Practice, University College of Pharmacy, University of the Punjab, AllamaIqbal Campus, Lahore, Pakistan.

School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia.

Abstract

Objective: Our current study aimed at to explore the homeopathic student perception about career preferences and what they understand about leadership and hierarchical attitude.

Method: An institutional survey was carried out in Pakistan homeopathic medical college, hospital and research center among undergraduate homeopathic students. Total 65 students participated in this study and a pretested questionnaire was filled by all students. Students were asked to rate their answers on a Likert scale.

Results: Out of total 65 participants, there were 29 BHMS students (7 male, 22 female) and 36 DHMS students (6 male, 30 female). Major finding of this study was that student's chosen homeopathy because they were interested in health oriented career and medicines. Many students were interested in research and wanted to pursue a postgraduate degree in future. DHMS students were strongly agreed while BHMS students were neutral about the fact that they intended to pursue a postgraduate research degree. DHMS students were strongly agreed that research is easy whereas BHMS students were neutral. DHMS students were strongly agreed that a leader must control the group or organization while the most of the BHMS students were remained neutral.

Conclusion: Taken together, findings of this study suggested that DHMS students were more confident and career oriented rather than BHMS students. Different programs related to leadership should be conducted to develop hierarchical and systemic approaches among students especially for BHMS. Proper job opportunities and research infrastructure should be developed for homeopathic students by government.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, not only conventional form of western medical treatment is practiced, but there are also many alternative forms of treatments. From all of them, homeopathy is one of the extensively used forms of alternative medical treatment. (1) A German physician Samuel Hahnemann introduced a homeopathic system. (2-4) Homeopathy is based on two principles, "law of similar" (5-7) and other one is "law of potentization". (2, 8) In education and

medicines, research based evidence is more authentic rather than experienced based evidence. In evidence-based medical practice, research is cornerstone which provides variety of tools for prevention and treatment of disease. (9)

In complementary and alternative medicines there is a need of more researches especially in homeopathy. (10) Thus it is very important for both student and practitioner to keep himself updated regarding new researches. (11) For improving health care,

health research is essential. But unfortunately in developing countries health research is not conducted extensively although it is a need of time. In all fields of science and technology, united states has 4526 researchers per million citizens but in countries like Pakistan and India there is only 208 researchers per million citizens. (12) In Pakistan, poor state of health research is well established because of poor research training and lack of awareness. (13) That's the reason internationally research work is conducted widely but in Pakistan homeopathic research is still on earlier stage. However, in Pakistan, there is lack of sufficient evidence regarding the beliefs and concepts of homeopathic treatment among general population. Our current study aimed at to explore the student perception about career preferences and what they understand about leadership and hierarchical attitude.

METHODOLOGY

An institutional survey was carried out in Pakistan homeopathic medical college, hospital and research center among undergraduate homeopathic students. Ethical approval was obtained from college administration. In this survey, 65 students participated from BHMS and DHMS departments based on non-probability quota sampling technique. BHMS (bachelor in homeopathic medicine and science) is a five year degree program and one year of residency, While DHMS is a diploma in homeopathic medicine and science and it is a four year program. A standardized questionnaire was developed to evaluate perception of homeopathic students after a literature review (14-16). It was consisting of 5 segments of questions which were about reasons of choosing homeopathy, systemic approach, research work, hierarchical believes and leadership and awareness. The questionnaires were distributed among both groups. Verbal instructions were given to the students regarding the queries of filling it up. To validate our questionnaire, firstly a pilot study was conducted before its application on a relatively small population. Participant's identification was not disclosed after filling up questionnaire. Students were asked to rate their answers on a scale (1 for strongly agree to 5 for strongly disagree). It took 3 to 5 minutes to complete it. When they had filled, the questionnaires were taken back from the students. An observational analysis was carried out upon this. During analysis all the responses were analyzes

individually. The answers of the students from both groups were compared using statistical method to find out the similarities and contradictions in their views and answers.

RESULTS

Total 65 students were participated in this survey. Questionnaire was filled by both BHMS and DHMS students. Demographic characteristics of the total sample are presented in Table 1. Out of total 65 participants, there were 29 BHMS students (7 male, 22 female) and 36 DHMS students (6 male, 30 female). In this survey, we aimed to observe the career preferences and interest development during course among students of BHMS and DHMS. A considerable difference found in approaches of students when the result of survey was analyzed using statistical procedures. For instance, when they were asked about the job opportunities and career prospect in homeopathy, DHMS students were strongly agree (44.4%) with this, that homeopathy has good job prospective. Conversely, only few (3.4%) BHMS students were agreed with this. There appears a significant difference ($p=0.000$) in their thinking about this aspect. A majority of participants from DHMS group, found to choose homeopathy, because they wanted to join a pharmaceutical company. The rest of respondents from BHMS group aimed at developing their own clinical setups as shown in (Table 2).

Perception of respondents about systemic approach is summarized in (Table 3). BHMS students were strongly agreed that an effective leadership seek out resources needed to adapt the changing world while DHMS students were neutrally agreed ($p=0.057$). On the other hand DHMS students were strongly agreed that anticipating the future is one of the most important roles of the leadership process while BHMS students were neutrally agreed. ($p=0.039$). Their responses about the research work were relatively similar which are shown in (Table 3). DHMS was strongly while BHMS was neutrally agreed with the question that they intended to pursue a postgraduate research degree ($p=0.019$). DHMS were strongly agreed that research is easy. BHMS were neutrally agreed. On the question about control of organization, DHMS students were strongly agree that a leader must control the group or organization while the BHMS was neutrally agreed ($p=0.000$). Respondents from BHMS group were strongly agreed that the responsibilities of taking risk lies within the leader of an organization.

Career Preferences, Leadership Attitudes and Research Interests among Homeopathic Students of Lahore, Pakistan

DHMS was neutrally agree ($p=0.005$). DHMS students were more likely in favor of the statement that the main task of the leader is to take important decision and to communicate them, BHMS was neutrally agree. DHMS was strongly while the BHMS was neutrally agreed that positional leaders deserve credit for the success of organization as shown in Table 5.

Table 1. Demographics

	BHMS	DHMS	Total
Age			
≤ 21	17(58.6)	22(61.1)	39 (60.0)
> 21	12(41.4)	14(38.9)	26(40.0)
Gender			
Male	7(24.1)	6(16.7)	13(20.0)
Female	22(75.9)	30(83.3)	52(80.0)
House hold income monthly			
<20k	8(27.6)	18(50.0)	26(40.0)
>20K	21(72.4)	18(50.0)	39(60.0)
Area of home town			
Rural	7(24.1)	3(8.3)	10(15.4)
Urban	22(75.9)	33(91.7)	55(84.6)

BHMS; Bachelor of Homeopathic medicine and science, DHMS; Diploma of Homeopathic medicine and science

Table 2. Reason for choosing Homeopathy

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Course [#]
Interested in health and medicine	52(80.0)	9(13.8)	3(4.6)	1(1.5)	0	0.148
Felt that health related disciplines are good professions?	46(70.8)	16(24.6)	3(4.6)	0	0	0.058*
Felt that homeopathy has good job prospect?	17(26.2)	17(26.2)	16(24.6)	15(23.1)	0	0.000*
Felt that homeopathy would have high income?	2(31)	20(30.8)	27(41.5)	15(23.1)	1(1.5)	0.741
Joined homeopathy as a gateway to dentistry/medicine?	1(1.5)	17(26.2)	14(21.5)	37(4.7)	2(3.1)	0.026*
I wanted to work in a pharmaceutical company?	5(7.7)	7(10.8)	10(15.4)	28(43.1)	15(23.1)	0.004*
I want to work in a Government sector?	20(30.8)	19(29.2)	9(13.8)	12(18.5)	5(7.7)	0.324
Because I don't have any other option	4(6.2)	4(6.2)	6(9.2)	30(46.2)	21(32.3)	0.035*
I was aware about the scope of homeopathy profession.	14(21.5)	35(53.8)	13(20.0)	1(1.5)	2(3.1)	0.322

#DHMS or BHMS, *Significant difference, SA; strongly agreed, A; Agreed, N; Neutral, D; Disagree, SD; strongly disagree

Career Preferences, Leadership Attitudes and Research Interests among Homeopathic Students of Lahore, Pakistan

Table 3. Questions about Research work

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Course [#]
I am interested in research work?	32(49.2)	21(32.3)	11(16.9)	1(1.5)		0.520
I intend to pursue a post graduate research degree?	18(27.7)	23(35.4)	19(29.2)	5(7.7)		0.019*
I am Involved in research project?	4(6.2)	6(9.2)	8(12.3)	41(63.1)	6(9.2)	0.428
I think research is not boring?	20(30.8)	36(55.4)	4(6.2)	4(6.2)	1(1.5)	0.813
Immediate family is involved in research?	4(6.2)	9(13.8)	11(16.9)	37(56.9)	4(6.2)	0.100
Friends involved in research?	5(7.7)	14(21.5)	5(7.7)	32(49.2)	9(13.8)	0.470
Research is easy?	4(6.2)	11(16.9)	10(15.4)	27(41.5)	13(20.0)	0.042*

[#]DHMS or BHMS, *Significant difference, SA; strongly agreed, A; Agreed, N; Neutral, D; Disagree, SD; strongly disagree

Table 4. Systemic Approach

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Course [#]
An effective organization develops its human resources?	35(53.8)	28(43.1)	2(3.1)	0	0	0.124
Leadership activities should foster discussions about the future?	27(41.5)	29(44.6)	9(13.8)	0	0	0.560
Effective leadership seeks out resources needed to adapt to the changing world?	13(20.0)	39(60.0)	12(18.5)	1(1.5)	0	0.057*
Individual needed to take initiatives to help their organization to accomplish its goals?	8(12.3)	47(72.3)	8(12.3)	2(3.1)	0	0.319
Leadership should encourage innovations?	28(43.1)	27(41.5)	6(9.2)	4(6.2)	0	0.571
Organizational actions should improve life for future generations?	33(50.8)	24(36.9)	6(9.2)	1(1.5)	1(1.5)	0.182
Everyone in an organization need to be responsible for accomplishing the organizational goals?	16(24.6)	41(63.1)	8(12.3)	0	0	0.476
Leadership process involves the participation of all organization members?	25(38.5)	29(44.6)	7(10.8)	4(6.2)	0	0.131
Anticipating the future is one of the most important roles of the leadership processes?	16(24.6)	29(44.6)	17(26.2)	3(4.6)	0	0.039*
Good leadership requires that the ethical issues have high priority?	40(61.5)	14(21.5)	8(12.3)	1(1.5)	2(3.1)	0.355
Successful organizations make continuous learning their highest priority?	25(38.5)	36(55.4)	4(6.2)	0	0	0.131
Environmental preservation should be a core value for every organization?	34(52.3)	27(41.5)	3(4.6)	1(1.5)	0	0.133
Organization should be ready to adapt to changes that occur outside the organization?	12(18.5)	47(72.3)	6(9.2)	0	0	0.203
An organization needs flexibility in order to adapt to a rapidly changing world?	27(41.5)	33(50.8)	1(1.5)	2(3.1)	2(3.1)	0.277

[#]DHMS or BHMS, *Significant difference, SA; strongly agreed, A; Agreed, N; Neutral, D; Disagree, SD; strongly disagree

Career Preferences, Leadership Attitudes and Research Interests among Homeopathic Students of Lahore, Pakistan

Table 5. Leadership and hierarchical beliefs

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Course [#]
I know difference between Hierarchical and systemic thinking?	13(20.0)	19(29.2)	17(26.2)	13(20.0)	3(4.6)	0.414
A leader must control the group or organization?	33(50.8)	24(36.9)	3(4.6)	5(7.7)	0	0.000***
A leader must maintain tight control of organization?	34(52.3)	16(24.6)	9(13.8)	6(9.2)	0	0.003**
A leader should maintain complete authority?	34(52.3)	21(32.3)	6(9.2)	4(6.2)	0	0.090
A leader should take charge of the group?	25(38.5)	28(43.1)	9(13.8)	3(4.6)	0	0.047*
The main tasks of the leader is to make and then communicate the decisions?	23(35.4)	25(38.5)	10(15.5)	6(9.2)	1(1.5)	0.001***
The main task of the leader is to make important decisions for the organization?	36(55.4)	27(41.5)	2(3.1)	0	0	0.001***
Positional leaders deserves credit for the success of the organization?	9(13.8)	27(41.5)	15(23.1)	9(13.8)	5(7.7)	0.032**
The responsibilities of taking risks lies with the leaders of an organization?	5(7.7)	22(33.8)	18(27.7)	19(29.2)	1(1.5)	0.005**
It is important that a single leader emerge in a group?	10(15.4)	32(49.2)	13(20.0)	9(13.8)	1(1.5)	0.150
Members should be completely loyal to the designated leaders of an organization?	37(56.9)	21(32.3)	2(3.1)	5(7.7)	0	0.094
The most important members of an organization are its leaders?	14(21.5)	30(46.2)	11(16.9)	7(10.8)	3(4.6)	0.088
When an organization is in danger of failure, new leaders are needed to fix its position?	11(16.9)	24(36.9)	13(20.0)	15(23.1)	2(3.1)	0.179
Leaders are responsible for the security of organization members?	9(13.8)	32(49.2)	17(26.2)	3(4.6)	4(6.2)	0.390
An organization should try to remain as stable as possible?	32(49.2)	23(35.4)	9(13.8)	1(1.5)	0	0.126

#DHMS or BHMS, *Significant difference, SA; strongly agreed, A; Agreed, N; Neutral, D; Disagree, SD; strongly disagree

DISCUSSION

For a person, selection of appropriate career is one of the most important decision and there are many factors which influencing this decision. (17) Thus the main purpose of our survey was to study student's preferences and interest developments during course and when we asked students about the reasons of choosing homeopathy, both groups (B.H.M.S and .D.H.M.S) showed different reasons of choosing this field. According to some students, they chosen

homeopathy because they were interested in health and medicines although statistically result was not significant. While some students chosen this field because they wanted to get good job opportunities and high income. Many students, agreed upon it they joined homeopathy to work in pharmaceutical company or in a government sector that's why they chosen homeopathy. Many respondents not agreed upon this statement "Joined homeopathy as a gateway to dentistry/medicine".

In this study we evaluated their interests toward research. For medical students, participation in research is very beneficial to their education (18) because only a sound research can improve higher education. (19) But in many countries very few medical students choose a career in medical research. (20) students need to be “sensitized” to research. (12) It is essential for the students to keep their selves updated towards new researches. All students not showed equal interest in research work but many students want to pursue a postgraduate degree in future and significant number of students strongly disagreed upon this statement “research is easy”. It means that all respondents was well aware about the importance of research

Leadership is the most important element of any institute and a leader know how to handle the situations. He is a person who maximizes other efforts, towards the achievement of goals. (21) Respondents were very well aware about the qualities of a leader. According to them, for effective leadership to seek out resources needed to adapt changing world and anticipating future is very important. Thus a significant trend was seen in these statements. In this study we also tried to assess the student’s perception towards leadership attitude and belief.

Majority of students agreed that a leader must be able to control an organization. A Leader must maintain a tight control of organization and his main task is to take decision and then communicate the decision. He must be able to make important decision for organization many respondents believed that a positional leader deserves credit for the success of organization. DHMS students was more confident about these statements rather than BHMS students. Although BHMS students was shown neutral approach of these statements but DHMS students strongly agreed.

Major finding of our study was that BHMS and DHMS students have different point of view about every question. The sense of uncertainty was seen in the students of BHMS. BHMS students showed neutral approaches to answer many question. Because BHMS is a recently started program in Pakistan homeopathic college. On the other hand DHMS students was very confident and having clear vision regarding every aspect. Basic reason behind these two opinions is BHMS students have some problems regarding their jobs. They don’t have jobs in government sector rite now.

CONCLUSION

Major finding of this study was that student’s chosen homeopathy because they were interested in health and medicines. Many students were interested in research and wanted to pursue a postgraduate degree in future. Taken together, findings of this study suggested that DHMS students were more confident and career oriented rather than BHMS students. Different programs related to leadership should be conducted to develop hierarchical and systemic approaches among students especially for BHMS. Proper job opportunities and research infrastructure should be developed for BHMS students by government.

REFERENCES

- [1] Shah SF-u-H, Mubeen SM, Mansoor S. Concepts of homeopathy among general population in Karachi, Pakistan. *JPMA*. 2010;60(667).
- [2] Jonas WB, Linde K, Ramirez G. Homeopathy and rheumatic disease. *Rheumatic disease clinics of North America*. 2000;26(1):117-23.
- [3] Hussain S, Malik F, Khalid N, Qayyum MA, Riaz H. *Alternative and Traditional Medicines Systems in Pakistan: History, Regulation, Trends, Usefulness, Challenges, Prospects and Limitations. A compendium of essays on alternative therapy: In Tech*; 2012.
- [4] Kleijnen J, Knipschild P, ter Riet G. Clinical trials of homoeopathy. *Bmj*. 1991;302(6772):316-23.
- [5] Vickers AJ, Fisher P, Smith C, Wyllie SE, Lewith G. Homoeopathy for delayed onset muscle soreness: a randomised double blind placebo controlled trial. *British journal of sports medicine*. 1997;31(4):304-7.
- [6] Fisher P. 1. Abstract 2. Introduction 2.1. Homeopathy and Allopathy 2.2. Homeopathic Pathogenetic Trials 3. Development of homeopathy 3.1. Homeopathy Worldwide 4. Contemporary Homeopathic Practice 4.1. Individualised Homeopathy. *Frontiers in Bioscience*. 2012; 4:1669-82.
- [7] Hall H. *An introduction to homeopathy*. Skeptical Inquirer. 2016.
- [8] Rostock M, Naumann J, Guethlin C, Guenther L, Bartsch HH, Walach H. *Classical homeopathy in*

- the treatment of cancer patients-a prospective observational study of two independent cohorts. *BMC cancer*. 2011;11(1):19.
- [9] Mundle M, Saha S, Koley M, Arya JS, Choubey G, Saha S, et al. A survey exploring research perception of homeopathic undergraduate students in West Bengal, India. *International Journal of High Dilution Research*. 2014;13(46):28-44.
- [10] Haidvogel M, Riley DS, Heger M, Brien S, Jong M, Fischer M, et al. Homeopathic and conventional treatment for acute respiratory and ear complaints: a comparative study on outcome in the primary care setting. *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. 2007;7(1):7.
- [11] Rahman S, Majumder MAA, Shaban SF, Rahman N, Ahmed M, Abdulrahman KB, et al. Physician participation in clinical research and trials: issues and approaches. *Advances in medical education and practice*. 2011;2:85.
- [12] Aslam F, Shakir M, Qayyum MA. Why medical students are crucial to the future of research in South Asia. *PLoS medicine*. 2005;2(11):e322.
- [13] Aslam F, Qayyum M, Mahmud H, Qasim R, Haque I. Students' Corner Attitudes and Practices of Postgraduate Medical Trainees towards Research- a Snapshot from Faisalabad. *JPMA*. 2004; 54(534).
- [14] Kritikos VS, Saini B, Carter S, Moles RJ, Krass I. Factors influencing pharmacy students' attitudes towards pharmacy practice research and strategies for promoting research interest in pharmacy practice. *Pharmacy practice*. 2015;13(3).
- [15] Hassali MA, Saleem F, Alrasheedy AA, Ibrahim ZS, Khan TM, Aljadhey H. Leadership Attitudes and Beliefs of Pharmacy Students: A cross-sectional Study from a Malaysian University. 2016.
- [16] Salman S, Aqeel S, Ismail M, Idrees J, Halimi SMA, Zada A. Career preferences and attitude of first year Doctor of Pharmacy students toward pharmacy profession. *Archives of Pharmacy Practice*. 2013;4(3):129.
- [17] Mashige K, Oduntan O. Factors influencing South African optometry students in choosing their career and institution of learning. *African Vision and Eye Health*. 2011;70(1):21-8.
- [18] AlGhamdi KM, Moussa NA, AlEssa DS, AlOthimeen N, Al-Saud AS. Perceptions, attitudes and practices toward research among senior medical students. *Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal*. 2014;22(2):113-7.
- [19] Mugenda OM. Research methods: Quantitative and qualitative approaches: African Centre for Technology Studies; 1999.
- [20] Reinders JJ, Kropmans TJ, Cohen-Schotanus J. Extracurricular research experience of medical students and their scientific output after graduation. *Medical education*. 2005;39(2):237-.
- [21] Kruse K. What is leadership. *Forbes Magazine*. 2013;3.

Citation: Atif Raza, Zikria Saleem, Muhammad Zubair Qureshi, Asia Raza, Zuriat Abbas, Farhat Yasmeen. *Career Preferences, Leadership Attitudes and Research Interests among Homeopathic Students of Lahore, Pakistan*. *Archives of Community and Family Medicine*. 2018; 1(1): 33-39.

Copyright: © 2018 Atif Raza, Zikria Saleem, Muhammad Zubair Qureshi, Asia Raza, Zuriat Abbas, Farhat Yasmeen. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.