

Original Article

COMPARISON OF PERCEPTION AMONG DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR PROFESSION IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

Background: Picking a study program before entering college is a standout amongst the most essential choices in life since it ordinarily decides one's future profession way.

Aims & Objective: The objective of the study is to compare the perception among students of 5 Years Doctor of Physical Therapy Program from King Edward Medical University (public) and Superior University, Lahore (private) about their profession in public and private sector universities.

Methodology: A cross-sectional survey was done for the study in which the participants were students of 5 Years Doctor of Physical Therapy Program selected from King Edward Medical University (a top ranked public medical university) and Superior University (a top ranked private medical university) in 1 Year through convenience sampling. Chi square test was applied to compare both groups regarding their perception. P-Value was considered significant at 5%.

Results: The sample size of this study was 300 out of which 200 (67%) students returned whereas 100 (33%) did not. Out of 200 students 72 (36%) were from public university whereas 128 (64%) were from private university. A majority of 34(47.2%) male students were from public university and 86(67.2%) female students from private university. Majority of students from both the Universities assumed that physiotherapy has a bright future 35(48.6%) public and 49(38.3%) private respectively.

Conclusion: Students from both the universities chose physiotherapy as a career because of its bright future, they said that most physiotherapists offers musculoskeletal rehabilitation and there is an average status of physiotherapy in Pakistan whereas majority were satisfied with the profession and its job opportunities and assumed that they will get respect from healthcare professionals, They thought that there is a lack of knowledge among people about physiotherapy and were confident about their profession. In a nut shell students from both public and private universities almost having the same perception regarding their profession.

Key Words: Perception, Physiotherapy Profession, DPT Students, Public sector, Private sector

Introduction

Physical therapy, as a health care profession, was formally recognized in the second decade of the 20th century, after the World War I (1914-1918) whereas the profession was endorsed due to numerous emerging cases of poliomyelitis after World War I.⁽¹⁾ Physiotherapy as an integral part of the profession for the promotion of health, prevention, acute care and rehabilitation physiotherapy plays an essential role in the health system.⁽²⁾ A favorable environment has a positive and significant impact on students' learning, academic progress and well-being.⁽³⁾ Any profession can be characterized by that it represents a social standing in relation to other professions.⁽⁴⁾

WCPT strongly state that physiotherapists are independent practitioners who is able to work as first contact health care professionals⁽⁵⁾ The approximate number of new students entering physiotherapy program each year is 1800 in the Netherlands, 2500 in Italy, 2804 in the UK, 3200 in Spain and 9680 in Germany⁽⁶⁾ Career choice is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, which makes it difficult to predict and understand.⁽⁷⁾

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Peer mentorship has been identified as an effective way to address these changing professional needs.⁽⁸⁾ Undergraduate rural exposure can be beneficial in improving students' perceptions towards rural and remote practice as well as their decision to work rurally.⁽⁹⁾ Clinical educators play a key role in the education of healthcare professional students, because they supervise students while they are completing practice education placements.⁽¹⁰⁾ Members of the health care team need to understand and respect each other's professional abilities, in order to achieve interdisciplinary teamwork.⁽¹¹⁾ The implementation of interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) in health care has been proposed as a potential strategy to address patient safety issues,

improve quality care and health outcomes for patients, and reduce workforce shortages⁽¹²⁾

Research on perceptions about the role of physiotherapy in different disciplines was well established. These disciplines value and acknowledge the role of the physiotherapy but despite Physical Therapy being such a rapidly growing and emerging field there was not much work done to check the awareness of physical therapy among physiotherapy students of Lahore, Punjab.

The objective of this study is to compare the Perception of Doctor of Physical Therapy (5 Years) Students about their Profession in Public and Private Universities. The rationale of the study is to spread awareness among Doctor of Physical Therapy Students about Physiotherapy.

Methodology

The present study is a cross sectional study. The study was conducted in King Edward Medical University (public) and the Superior University, Lahore (private). Both male and female students of King Edward Medical University (public) and the Superior University, Lahore (private) were included in the study. The study took 4 months from December 2013 to December 2014 after approval from advance research committee. The sample size was calculated by using the following formula from online raosoft software by keeping total number of students 1350 and level of significance 5%. A total of 200 students were taken out of which 72 (36%) were from public university whereas 128 (64%) were from private university.

$$x = Z(c/100)^2 r(100-r)$$

$$n = N x / ((N-1)E^2 + x)$$

$$E = \text{Sqrt}[(N-n)x/n(N-1)]$$

Where N is the population size, r is the fraction of responses that you are interested in, and $Z(c/100)$ is the critical value for the confidence level c .

2nd to 5th Year Students of Doctor of physical therapy 5 year program from King Edward Medical University (public) and Superior University, Lahore (private). 1st Year of Doctor of Physical Therapy 5 years program. A cross-sectional survey was done for the study in which the participants were DPT

students selected from King Edward medical university (public) and superior university, Lahore (private) through convenience sampling. A self-administered questionnaire was used. The Reliability and validity of the questionnaire was done through literature review. DPT Students of all years were included in the sample except 1st Year of Doctor of Physical Therapy 5 years program. The sample size of this study was 300 out of which 200(67%) students gave response whereas 100(33%) did not. Out of 200(67%) students 72(36%) were from public university whereas 128(64%) were from private university. The ethical committee and Department of Medical Education of King Edward medical university (public) and superior university, Lahore (private) approved to conduct the study in College. The purpose of the study was explained to participants and informed consent was taken before data collection. Only those students were included in the study who signed the written consent. All the personal information of participants was kept hidden. Data was analyzed by using SPSS version 20. For quantitative data mean \pm S.D was used. Frequency Table, Percentages were used for qualitative data. Chi square test was applied to compare both groups regarding their perception. P – Value was considered significant at 5%.

Results

A total of 76(38%) male students and 124(62%) female students were included in the study with a ($P>0.044$). There were a majority of 34(47.2%) male students from public sector university and 86(67.2%) female students from private sector university. The majority of students from public university, got to know about physiotherapy through friends 30(41.7%) and private university through media 47(36.7%) with a ($P<0.300$).

A majority of students from public university decided to study physiotherapy due to low marks in entry test 37(51.4%) whereas private university students were impressed by a physiotherapist 41(32.0%) with a ($P>0.000$). Students from both public 34(47.2%) and private 46(35.9%) universities chose physiotherapy as a carrier because of bright future ($P>0.018$). Before getting admission in physiotherapy both public 35(48.6%) and private 49(38.3%) university students heard that physiotherapist had a bright future

($P < 0.139$). Students from both public 52(72.2%) and private 96(75.0%) university said that physiotherapist offers Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation services to the patients ($P < 0.469$). Majority of students from both public 30(41.7%) and private 62(48.4%) universities said that there is an average status of physiotherapist in Pakistan ($P < 0.512$). A lot of students from public university were satisfied with the profession 36(50%) and opportunities to develop skills 44(61.1%) whereas private university students were satisfied with the profession 72(56.2%) and opportunities to develop skills 78(60.9%) with a ($P < 0.716$) and ($P < 0.981$) respectively. Students from both public 56(77.8%) and private 76(59.4%) universities were not satisfied with the job opportunities in Pakistan with a ($P > 0.008$). A majority of students from both public 57(79.2%) and private 107(83.6%) university students thought that they would get respect from other healthcare professionals in practice ($P < 0.434$).

A lot of students from both public 29(40.3%) and private 58(45.3%) university students thought that they are facing a lack of knowledge among people about physiotherapy ($P < 0.363$). A majority of students from both public 59(81.9%) and private 110(85.9%) university students were confident about their profession ($P < 0.355$).

Discussion

A study led by Sadaf Shafqat and Sarah Omer about the mindfulness and view of Exercise based recuperation as a vocation among the middle of the road understudies of Karachi. just (13.5%) of understudies were very much aware of exercise based recuperation as a calling in government and private schools though, (31%) in government universities and (26.5%) in private universities had little learning.⁽¹⁾

Another study led by Prati and Liu. In October 2006 demonstrated that the Students thought non-intrusive treatment was a testing (76%), physically requesting (72%), and generously compensated (79%) wellbeing calling. The most ordinarily perceived intercessions utilized by physical advisors were physical activities (93%) and kneads (77%). DPT project and APTA ought to elevate all the more genuinely to people in general, the progressions experiencing in the field of exercise based recuperation.⁽¹³⁾

In created nations, physiotherapy understudies were significantly less likely than the other gathering of understudy to say that they were impacted by a professional guide or chose their occupation as second decision A review of (72%) of definite year physiotherapy understudies at Cumberland College found that they were extremely fulfilled by their vocation decision.^(14,15)

A study directed in Bangladesh Wellbeing Callings Foundation by Sarkar YA demonstrated that (92%) physiotherapy understudies of Bangladesh were fulfilled and certain to their calling. Understudies from both open and private segment colleges believed that they would get regard from other wellbeing experts. This looks like with another study in India in which physiotherapy calling was confronting a considerable measure of hindrances and challenges, similar to absence of chances for occupation and higher study, absence of learning among individuals and other wellbeing experts, no council and absence of physiotherapy universities and negligence.⁽⁴⁾

A comparable study led in Tamilnadu, India in which view of the physiotherapy calling by physiotherapists was concentrated on. The discoveries of the concentrate unmistakably infer the requirement for shaping physiotherapy board. The physiotherapists' discernment about the physiotherapy calling in Tamilnadu indicates two center classes i.e. demotivating remunerates and most exceedingly awful vocation opportunities & knowledge shortage which prompted the present circumstance of declining physiotherapy calling in Tamilnadu, India.⁽¹⁶⁾

In view of the discoveries and proposed from the witnesses it was clear that the calling needs a committee to direct and advance proficient improvement. The gathering should have been set up at both local and state legislative level which is deficient with regards to now and there is an interest for intergovernmental activity. The gathering could go about as a delegate for the calling to clarify the requirement for procurement of physiotherapy administration and expert improvement. The committee can characterize physiotherapy calling as a free calling and make qualified the physiotherapist as first advisors as were on account of created countries.

Table 1: Basic Characteristics And Perception Of Students

		Group		P-Value
		Public	Private	
Gender	Male	34(47.2%)	42(32.8%)	0.044
	Female	38(52.8%)	86(67.2%)	
Year	2 nd Year	21(29.2%)	36(28.1%)	0.000
	3 rd Year	2(2.8%)	74(57.8%)	
	4 th Year	24(33.3%)	18(14.1%)	
	5 th Year	25(34.7%)	0(0%)	
From where did you know about physiotherapy?	Media	18(25.0%)	47(36.7%)	0.300
	Relatives	23(31.9%)	38(29.7%)	
	Friends	30(41.7%)	40(31.2%)	
	Neighbours	1(1.4%)	3(2.3%)	
How did you decide to study in physiotherapy?	Low marks in intermediate examination	2(2.8%)	21(16.4%)	0.000
	Low marks in entry test	37(51.4%)	30(23.4%)	
	Parents suggestion	17(23.6%)	36(28.1%)	
	Impressed by a physiotherapist	16(22.2%)	41(32.0%)	
What factors influenced you to choose physiotherapy as a carrier?	Publicity of sports physiotherapy	8(11.2%)	4(3.1%)	0.018
	Bright future and opportunities in abroad	34(47.2%)	46(35.9%)	
	Opportunity to serve the mankind	11(15.3%)	35(27.3%)	
	Doctor title	19(26.4%)	43(33.6%)	
What did you know about physiotherapy before admission?	Physiotherapist can prescribe medicine	4(5.6%)	10(7.8%)	0.139
	Physiotherapy has a bright future	35(48.6%)	49(38.3%)	
	Its equivalent to MBBS	14(19.4%)	43(33.6%)	
	Nothing	19(26.4%)	26(20.3%)	
What kind of service does the physiotherapist offers to the patient?	Home based Rehabilitation	11(15.3%)	11(8.6%)	0.469
	Neuro Rehabilitation	5(6.9%)	10(7.8%)	
	Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation	52(72.2%)	96(75.0%)	
Don't Know Do you know about the status of physiotherapist in pakistan?	Yes	4(5.6%)	11(8.6%)	0.512
	Bright	7(9.7%)	15(11.7%)	
	Good	26(36.1%)	42(32.8%)	
	Average	30(41.7%)	62(48.4%)	
Are you satisfied with your profession?	Poor	9(12.5%)	9(7.0%)	0.716
	Highly satisfied	29(40.3%)	46(35.9%)	
	Satisfied	36(50%)	72(56.2%)	
	Dissatisfied	6(8.3%)	7(5.5%)	
Are you satisfied with opportunities to develop your skills?	Highly dissatisfied	1(1.4%)	3(2.3%)	0.981
	Yes	44(61.1%)	78(60.9%)	
	No	28(38.9%)	50(39.1%)	
Are you satisfied about the job opportunities of physiotherapy in Pakistan?	Yes	16(22.2%)	52(40.6%)	0.008
	No	56(77.8%)	76(59.4%)	
Do you think that you will get respect from other healthcare professionals in practice?	Yes	57(79.2%)	107(83.6%)	0.434
	No	15(20.8%)	21(16.4%)	
What kind of problem are you facing in the profession?	Lack of knowledge among people about physiotherapy	29(40.3%)	58(45.3%)	0.363
	Lack of opportunities for job	19(26.4%)	21(16.4%)	
	No physiotherapy council	20(27.8%)	38(29.7%)	
	Malpractice	4(5.6%)	11(8.6%)	
Are you feeling confident about your profession?	Yes	59(81.9%)	110(85.9%)	0.355
	No	13(18.1%)	18(14.1%)	

Conclusion

Through this study, we concluded that majority of students from public university were males especially from 5th/Final Year who got to know about physiotherapy through the friends and entered into the profession due to low marks in entry test, whereas majority of the students from private university were females especially from 3rd Year who got to know about physiotherapy through media and entered into

the profession by getting impressed by the physiotherapist.

Students from both the universities chose physiotherapy as a carrier because of its bright future before getting admission into the medical school. Students from both the universities assumed that physiotherapist offers musculoskeletal rehabilitation and there is an average status of physiotherapy in Pakistan, Both were satisfied with the profession, its job opportunities and thought that they would get

respect from healthcare professionals, they said that there is a lack of knowledge among people about physiotherapy. Both were confident about the profession. In a nut shell students from both public and private universities were almost have the same perception regarding their profession.

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Author's Contribution:

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