

INVOLVEMENT OF DOCTORS OF LAYYAH, PAKISTAN IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT... Objectives: To study the involvement of doctors of layyah, Pakistan in medical research. **METHODS:** A cross sectional questionnaire based study was conducted, the main hospital of city Layyah; Mian Nawaz Sharif (THAL) hospital was selected. Graduates and postgraduate doctors were included. Descriptive statistics were chartered using SPSS. **RESULTS:** 72% of the doctors have habit of reading medical journals. Only 10% of the doctors have manuscript published under their names. 68% of the doctors think that their current exposure to medical research is inadequate while 96% of the doctors would like to have medical research as a part of basic medical sciences. **CONCLUSION:** There is keen interest for medical research among the doctors of Layyah but due to lack of motivating and driving factors such as research oriented mentors, funds, seminars, refresher courses and continuous medical education trends, practically there is very negligible contribution of doctors of Layyah in the field of medical research. The exposure of the doctors to the medical research is inadequate.

Keywords: Research involvement, graduates, post graduates, Pakistan

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INTRODUCTION

Research is finding solution to the problems and adding new information into the already existing knowledge. In medical profession research has a pivotal role. A doctor should be a good researcher along with all other competencies. The thinking of a doctor should be multidimensional. A much stress has been paid to integrate research with medical community. In Pakistan College of physicians and surgeons CPSP, University of Health Sciences Lahore (UHS) and many more institutes, under the regulatory authorities like Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) are putting their efforts to produce good medical research. Many other universities have also established their department of medical education and research centers. In Pakistan, research is still in its infancy. Involvement of doctors in research helps to develop personality skills, communication skills, thinking out of box and time management therefore helping them to be an independent learner and critical evaluator. Factors like research mentors, funding

and trainings are mandatory for conducting a quality research. Unfortunately even the top institutes of Pakistan reports that medical professionals have inadequate knowledge of research with no practical experience of reading and writing literature suggesting that there is an immediate need to improve research training in educational institutes of Pakistan

This study was carried out in district Layyah, Pakistan, to observe the involvement of doctors in research.

METHOD

This cross sectional study "" was conducted with the help of a self-administered questionnaire. To establish the content validity of the questionnaire two experts were requested to critically review the content of the questionnaire. 55 doctors were requested to fill the questionnaire while 50 responded to it. Closed ended questions were asked regarding the habit of reading journals, publication practices and exposure to medical research. The study was conducted at the main hospital of city Layyah i.e.

MIAN NAWAZ SHARIF (THAL HOSPITAL LAYYAH). Both graduate and post graduate doctors were included. An ethical permission for collecting data from the hospital was taken from the concerned authority.

RESULTS

69.7% graduates have a habit of reading medical journals while its 85.7% among the post graduates. 48.4% percent graduates would like to contribute to any research project while it figures 85.7 amongst the post graduates. Only 9.3% graduates are currently the part of research and its 28% for post graduates. The percentage of publications among the graduates is very low i.e. 4.6% while for post graduates it's also low as 42%.62% graduates and 100% post graduates think that exposure to the medical research is inadequate.95% of graduates and 100% of post graduates like to have medical research as a part of basic medical sciences.

Table-I

GENDER DISTRIBUTION	
Male	25(50%)
Femal	25(50%)

Table-II

QUALIFICATION DISTRIBUTION	
Graduate	43(86%)
Postgraduate	07(14%)

Table-III

Questions	Graduate		Post graduate		Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Do you have a habit of reading medical journals?	Yes	30	Yes	06	36(72%)
	No	13	No	01	14(28%)
Do you read medical journals frequently?	Yes	14	Yes	03	17(34%)
	No	29	No	04	33(66%)
Would you like to contribute to any research project?	Yes	21	Yes	06	27(54%)
	No	22	No	01	23(56%)
Currently, are you a part of any medical research project?	Yes	04	Yes	02	06(12%)
	No	39	No	05	44(88%)
Do you have any manuscript published under your name?	Yes	02	Yes	03	05(10%)
	No	41	No	04	45(90%)
. In your opinion current exposure to medical research is adequate?	Yes	16	Yes	00	16(32%)
	No	27	No	07	34(68%)
Would you like to have medical research as part of basic medical education?	Yes	41	Yes	07	48(96%)
	No	02	No	00	02(04%)

DISCUSSION

Our main interest of the study was to observe the involvement of doctors of Layyah, Pakistan, in medical research. Although medical research is a crucial part of medical profession as mentioned in various research conducted at national and international level, for example, Please, mention citations. Otherwise, it would not be coherent. have put emphasis on medical research and wrote that it leads to successful battles against diseases, reduce health care delivery cost, helps in professional development of doctor etc. but in this region it has been deprived of doctor's attention. Most doctors have a habit of reading journal i.e. 69.7% of graduates have told that they read medical journals, but their interest and involvement in medical research is only up to reading the journals. Only 12% of the doctors are currently the part of any research while rest of the doctors has nothing to do with it, which is an alarming situation, the finding of lack of involvement in medical research is quite similar to the findings of '. Another research done in Karachi, Pakistan found that 49 % of graduates have reading habit due to their institutional requirement and 41% of undergraduates have participated in research. This indicates that high number of medical professionals are involved in research process as compared to doctors of Layyah. The disparity may be due to the fact that doctors of Karachi have more access to seminars, mentors, or refresher courses etc. as compared to doctors working in Layyah. However, the involvement of doctors of Karachi was also limited to data collection and computer works. Similarly, the reason of low percentage among doctors of Layyah was due to non-existence or lack of motivating factors. According to PMDC a doctor should be a good researcher but here the situation is opposite which is a big question mark. The current study also found that there is keen interest for medical research among the doctors of Layyah, but there is need of a mechanism in educational system that promote and teach students about research as found in other similar studies '— . A study done on finding the knowledge and attitude of medical students towards research concluded that the medical students need improvement in this area and the participants urged for need of intensive trainings on similar topics related to medical research. Our study, 95% of graduates and 100% of post graduates, also suggests that medical research should be a part of basic medical sciences. Our curriculum needs reforms in this respect.

CONCLUSION

There is keen interest for medical research among the doctors of Layyah but due to lack of motivating and driving factors like research oriented mentors, funds, seminars, refresher courses and continuous medical education trends, practically there is very negligible contribution of doctors of Layyah in the field of medical research. The exposure of the doctors to the medical research is inadequate.

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