

Building Awareness for Evidence Based Practice in Malaysia

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Abstract

Introduction

Systematic review development has been a major focus in the research activities of the National Institute of Health (NIH), Malaysia for the last three years. In November 2014, a systematic review workshop was conducted for health care practitioners and researchers to promote the use of systematic reviews to inform healthcare decision-making.

Objective

Creating awareness among researchers in Ministry of Health Malaysia on developing quality systematic reviews for evidence based practice and research.

Methods

We conducted a survey using self-administered questionnaire to the workshop participants to evaluate their understanding on the process of Cochrane Systematic Review as well as Review Completion Workshop and Scoping Review. There were two sections in the questionnaire:

- i) The participants' experience, scope of practice and research focus and
- ii) Knowledge and awareness among participants regarding Cochrane Systematic Review and Scoping Review.

Basic characteristics were presented using descriptive statistics and 2 by 2 table Pearson Chi Square was used to find association between independent variables and outcome.

Results

Forty two percent of the participants have been working less than 5 years and 58.3% have been working more than 5 years. 25% of the participants have been working in the same department for more than 5 years. Nearly seventy percent (69.4%) of the participants were medical officers, 16.7% technical and support staffs and 13.9% specialists. Only 36.1% have attended Cochrane Systematic Review prior to this course and 5.6% participants have been

involved in Cochrane Systematic Review. Among the participants, 66.7% have attended Scoping Review training before and 13.9% involved in Scoping Review. Two-third of the participants understood the process of developing Cochrane Systematic Review and Scoping Review.

Post-workshop, there were substantial increases in the number of participants who understood the process of developing a Cochrane Review ($p=0.007$) the structure in reporting Cochrane and Scoping Review ($p=0.001$).

Conclusion

Even though there was an increment in awareness and understanding after the workshop, we believe a lot of efforts and approaches need to be done in order to deliver the purposes and functions in promoting evidence based practice.