Understanding the characteristics of pharmacy and its workforce: an insight for practice change

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Introduction

The inevitable changing landscape of health and pharmacy sector has preserved a constant pressure for community pharmacy to change1. Practice change, however, is not an easy task as it may require an overhaul to the pharmacy operation and workforces2. This might imply an imperative to understand the pharmacy and its workforces prior to ignite some changes. Therefore, this study aims to report the characteristics of community pharmacy and workforces in Indonesia to show the potentials for pharmacy to change.

Methods

This study has been ethically approved by the Research Ethics Committee of The Faculty of Public Health Universitas Airlangga. This study is part of SURPHACE (SURvey of PHArmacy Contribution and Excellence) Project.

Results

1,952 pharmacists participated in the survey. Most of the respondents were female (78%) with majority were younger than 40 years (87%).

- 79% owned by investor (N=1,200)
- 77% operated independently (N=1,083)
- 82% employed only 1 pharmacist (N=1,049)
- 62% Size of the outlet < 50 sq meter (N=1,051)
- 62% Located next to 1-3 outlets within 500 meters (N=1,086)
- 91% employed at least 1 technician (N=931)

Discussion

The professional development and status of pharmacist and pharmacy not static and will change with time due to pressures and incentives at local and national level, which includes various internal and external interests at sociological, political, technological and economical levels3. An increasingly important question for pharmacy is how their current operation might fit to these changes.

Conclusions

The community pharmacy in Indonesia mainly operates as small sized enterprises. An emerging concern is how such type of pharmacy can attain greater employment flexibility and introduce organizational change under non-pharmacist ownership.

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References