

The Effects of Persian Medicine training on Knowledge, Attitude, and **Practice of Medical Sciences Students**

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Background

- Traditional medicine refers to a set of indigenous or acquired health care practices outside the mainstream health care system in any country(1).
- The use of CAM has expanded in the last two decades, and the prevalence of its use in the general population worldwide varies from 9.8 to 76%(2).
- A wide range of people use traditional and complementary medicine in Iran, and due to its ancient Persian origin, it is known as Persian Medicine (PM).
- 1. James PB, Wardle J, Steel A, Adams J. Traditional, complementary and alternative medicine use in Sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review. BMJ global health. 2018;3(5):e000895.
- ▶ 2. Harris PE, Cooper K, Relton C, Thomas K. Prevalence of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use by the general population: a systematic review and update. International journal of clinical practice. 2012;66(10):924-39.

- To examine the physicians' attitudes and knowledge about CAM in Italy in 2020, Berretta et al. showed that 42% of physicians believed CAM therapies could play an integrated role in modern medicine(1).
- In Iran, a study by Soleimani et al. on the attitude of medical students and specialized assistants in 2013 showed that the participants' attitudes about traditional medicine were low to moderate(2)

- 1. Berretta M, Rinaldi L, Taibi R, Tralongo P, Fulvi A, Montesarchio V, et al. Physician attitudes and perceptions of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM): a multicentre Italian study. Frontiers in Oncology. 2020:594.
- 2. Soleimani R, Jalali M, Ahmadi R. Attitude of clinical medical students and residents of Guilan University of Medical Sciences about complementary and alternative medicine. 2013.

The familiarity of healthcare providers with it seems essential for them.

■ Therefore, according to the directive of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran, all medical sciences students must take courses in Persian medicine.

Methods

- This quasi-experimental study was conducted to investigate the effect of PM education on the knowledge, attitude, and practice of medical sciences students in Iran.
- In this study, an educational intervention on knowledge, attitude, and practice of Persian medicine was conducted on medical sciences students in the fifthlargest region of health education in Iran.
- Shiraz University of Medical Sciences ethics committee (IR.SUMS.REC.1400.511)
- They were studying in the second semester of the academic year from 20 Jan. 2020 to 20 May 2020.

The second section elicited students' knowledge about 10 methods used for health and treatment by "Persian medicine," using a 5-point Likert scale

بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	شيوه ها	ردیف
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	روش های پاسداشت تندرستی (حفظ الصحه)	,
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (گ)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	مزاج شناسی	٢
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	داروهای گیاهی تکی (گیاهان دارویی)	٣
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	داروهای گیاهی ترکیبی	۴
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	توصیه های تغذیه ای	۵
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	ماساژدرمانی	۶
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	آبزن/سونای مرطوب	γ
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	حجامت	٨
بطور کامل با آن آشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	فصد	٩
بطور کامل با اَن اَشنایی دارم (۵)	اطلاعات کافی در مورد آن دارم (۴)	کمی در مورد آن می دانم (۳)	در مورد آن مطالبی شنیده ام (۲)	هیچ اطلاعی ندارم (۱)	زالو درمانی	1.

The source(s) of getting information

ساير روشها	کتابهای رسمی و معتبر	دوره های آموزشی کلاسیک	رسانه و اینترنت	شيوه ها	
بله 🗍 خير	بله 📄 خير 📄	بله 🔵 خير	بله 🔵 خير	روش های پاسداشت تندرستی (حفظ الصحه)	١
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	مزاج شناسي	٢
بله 🗍 خير	بله 📄 خير 📄	بله 🔵 خير	بله 🗍 خير	داروهای گیاهی تکی (گیاهان دارویی)	٣
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	داروهای گیاهی ترکیبی	۴
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	توصیه های تغذیه ای	۵
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	ماساژدرمانی	۶
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	آبزن	٧
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	حجامت	٨
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	فصد	٩
بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير 🗍	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	زالو درمانی	١٠

The fourth and fifth sections explored medical sciences students' personal and professional use of Persian medicine

		دلیل استفاده	>		
	تسکین درد	روش درمان کمکی	روش درمانی اصلی	روش های درمانی	ردیف
1	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	روش های پاسداشت تندرستی (حفظ الصحه)	١
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	مزاج شناسي	۲
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	داروهای گیاهی تکی (گیاهان دارویی)	٣
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	داروهای گیاهی ترکیبی	۴
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	توصیه های تغذیه ای	۵
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	ماساژدرمانی	۶
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	آبزن	γ
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗋 خير	بله 🗌 خير	حجامت	٨
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗌 خير	فصد	٩
	بله 🗌 خير	بله 🗋 خير	بله 🗌 خير	زالو درمانی	1.

Questions were asked to evaluate their health belief and attitude

رتبه بندی موافقت یا مخالفت	گویه	ردیف
كاملا مخالف ١ [٢] ٣] ٤ [٥] ۶ كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران را می توان بدون مشورت پزشک استفاده کرد	١
كاملا مخالف ١ [٢] ٣] ٤ [٥] ۶ [٧] كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران را می توان به عنوان درمان اصلی بیماری ها بکار گرفت	۲
كاملا مخالف ١ 📗 ٢ 🗎 ٣ 🕳 ٥ 📗 ۶ 🖟 ٧ كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران تنها به عنوان درمان تکمیلی مفید هستند	٣
كاملا مخالف ١ 📗 ٢ 🗎 ٣ 🌓 ۵ 📗 ۶ 🔃 ٧ كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران فقط برای بیماری های ساده کاربرد دارند	۴
كاملا مخالف ١ 📗 ٢ 🗎 ٣ 🕳 ۵ 📗 ۶ 🔝 ٧ كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران فقط برای بیماری های مزمن کاربرد دارند	۵
كاملا مخالف ١ 📗 ٢ 🗎 ٣ 📗 ٥ 📗 ۶ 🔝 ٧ 📄 كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران ارزان هستند	۶
كاملا مخالف ١ 📗 ٢ 🗎 ٣ 📗 ٥ 📗 ۶ 🔝 ٧ 📄 كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران در دسترس همه مردم هستند	γ
كاملا مخالف ١ [٢ [٣] ٤ [٥] ۶ [٧] كاملا موالق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران فقط برای حفظ سلامتی و پیشگیری از بیماری ها مفیدند	
كاملا مخالف ١ [٢ [٣] ٤ [٥] ۶ [٧] كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران به سادگی توسط بیماران پذیرفته می شود	٩

Questions were asked to evaluate their health belief and attitude

ر تبه بندی موافقت یا مخالفت	گويه	ردیف
کاملا مخالف ۱ □ ۲ □ ۳ □ ۵ □ ۶ □ ۷ □ کاملا موافق	به طور کلی روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران اگر سودی نداشته باشند ضرر خاصی هم برای بیمار ندارند	11
كاملا مخالف ١ □ ٢ □ ٣ ◘ ١ ه □ ۶ □ ٧ □ كاملا موافق	داروهای طب سنتی ایران عوارض چندان مهمی ندارند	١٢
كاملا مخالف ١ ٢ ٣ ١ ١ ٧ ٥ ٧ كاملا موافق	روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران عوارض چندان مهمی ندارند	
کاملا مخالف ۱ □ ۲ □ ۳ □ ۵ □ ۶ □ ۷ □ کاملا موافق	استفاده از روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران ممکن است باعث به تاخیر انداختن درمانهای اصلی شود	14
کاملا مخالف ۱ □ ۲ □ ۲ □ ۵ □ ۶ □ ۷ □ کاملا موافق	برای دانشجویان لازم است با روش های درمانی طب سنتی ایران آشنا شوند	10
کاملا مخالف ۱ □ ۲ □ ۲ □ ۵ □ ۶ □ ۷ □ کاملا موافق	در صورت برگزاری دوره آموزشی آشنایی با طب سنتی ایران بصورت کوتاه مدت (کمتر از یک هفته) در این دوره ها شرکت خواهم کرد	19
کاملا مخالف ۱ [۲ [۳] ۵ [۶] ۷ [کاملا موافق	در صورت برگزاری دوره آموزشی آشنایی با طب سنتی ایران بصورت بلند مدت (یک ماه) در این دوره ها شرکت خواهم کرد	١٧

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

- Cronbach's alpha was used to indicate the internal consistency of different sections of the questionnaire and check its reliability.
- The values for the 2nd (knowledge)part= 0.898
- The values for the 3rd (Sources) part= 0.897
- The values for the 4th (Personal usage) part= 0.925
- The values for the 5th (Professional usage) part= 0.941
- The values for the 6th (Attetude)part= 0.899

Table1: Socio-demographic characteristics of students

Table 1: Socio-	demographic	characteristics	of the	students

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent	Gender Female/Male
Major	NURSING	40	40.4	40.4	25/15
	MIDWIFERY	24	24.2	64.6	24/0
	DMD	14	14.1	78.8	10/4
	NUTRITION	12	12.1	90.9	9/3
	MD	9	9.1	100.0	7/2
	Total	99	100.0	-	75/24
Grade	BA student	75	75.8	75.8	57/18
	MD/DMD student	22	22.2	98.0	16/6
	MS student	1	1.0	99.0	1/0
	PHD student	1	1.0	100.0	1/0
	Total	99	100.0	-	75/24
Place of residence	Metropolitan areas	23	23.23	23.23	17/6
	Rural areas	70	70.70	93.93	74/16
	Missing data	6	6.06	100	4/2
Duration of studying	1-2	40	40.40	40.40	32/8
(Semester)	3-4	36	36.36	76.76	26/10
	5-6	15	15.15	91.91	12/3
	Other	3	3.03	94.94	3/0
	Missing data	5	5.05	100	2/3

The Primary Source of Getting Information about Persian Medicine

	1 CI SIAIT MCGICITE				
	Preferable Sources				
	Methods of Persian Medicine	Social media and the internet	Classic training courses	Scientific books	others
	Six principles of hygiene in Persian Medicine	69	16	13	24
	Mizāj (temperament)	60	17	6	19
	Medicinal plants	49	12	11	48
	Compound herbal medicines	44	8	4	51
/	Dietotherapy	63	17	22	63
	Massage therapy	59	13	6	32
	Aquatic therapy	49	10	3	49
	Hijāma (cupping)	51	13	8	47
\mathbb{N}	Fasd (venesection)	44	9	1	50
V	Leech therapy	54	12	3	50

Table 2: The mean scores of medical sciences students' knowledge perceptions, attitude, and practice of Persian medicine

Score of medical sciences		Before		After	P value
Groups of evaluation	Mean (M)	Standard deviation (SD)	Mean (M)	Standard deviation (SD)	•
Knowledge perceptions	25.28	7.57	31.03	8.64	≤0.001
Participants' own usage	49	22.47	64	17.06	≤0.001
Participants' recommendations for patients' usage	45	19.92	60	20.45	≤0.001
Attitude	69.34	8.98	70.68	9.37	≤0.001

Table 3: The participants' own or professional usage patterns of Persian medicine

Preferable or Professional usage	Participants' own usage			Participants' recommendations to patients			
	Before (N)	After (N)	P value	Before (N)	After (N)	P value	
Methods of Persian medicine							
Six principles of hygiene in Persian medicine	63	81	0.004	58	74	0.015	
mizāj (temperament)	51	72	0.002	46	70	< 0.001	
Medicinal plants	82	85	0.557	68	84	0.007	
Compound herbal medicines	38	59	0.002	30	54	<0.001	
Diet therapy	79	86	0.181	74	80	0.305	
Massage therapy	58	67	0.184	52	70	0.008	
Aquatic therapy	30	42	0.076	26	39	0.049	
hijāma (cupping)	46	51	0.477	55	63	0.299	
Fasd (venesection)	7	20	0.007	8	17	0.054	
Leech therapy	26	36	0.125	27	38	0.095	

Attitude of Medical sciences students about Persian Medicine, before and after the course

	Descriptive Statistics						
_	Bei	fore	Af	D 1			
Statements	(mean)	Std. Deviation	(mean)	Std. Deviation	P-value		
Persian Medicine treatments can be used without consulting a doctor	5.61	1.58	5.80	0.15	0.399		
Persian Medicine treatment methods can be used as the main treatment of diseases	4.91	1.89	4.39	0.19	0.070		
Persian Medicine treatments are helpful only as a complementary treatment	3.82	1.96	3.50	0.20	0.347		
Persian Medicine treatments are used only for simple diseases	2.53	1.62	2.81	0.17	0.185		
Persian Medicine treatments are used only for chronic diseases	5.72	1.480	5.65	0.15	0.552		
Persian Medicine treatments are cheap	3.65	1.93	4.21	0.17	0.007		
Persian Medicine treatments are available to all people	3.63	1.83	4.20	0.18	0.007		
Persian Medicine treatments are helpful only for maintaining health and preventing diseases	2.97	1.81	3.08	0.17	0.636		
patients easily accept Persian Medicine treatments	3.52	1.80	4.14	0.16	0.001		
In the final stages of diseases that do not respond to other treatments, Persian Medicine treatments are worth trying	4.61	1.87	4.78	0.20	0.384		

Attitude of Medical sciences students about Persian Medicine, before and after the course

	Descriptive Statistics					
Chahamanta	Bet	Before		After		
Statements	(mean)	Std. Deviation	(mean)	Std. Deviation	P-value	
In general, the treatments of Persian Medicine						
do not have any special harm to the patient if	5.15	1.89	5.13	0.199	0.874	
they are not beneficial						
Persian Medicine has no significant side effects	5.31	1.75	5.18	0.19	0.592	
The use of Persian Medicine treatments may	2.60	1 02	3.33	0.18	0.100	
delay the main treatments	3.60	1.83	3.33	0.18	0.190	
Medical sciences students need to be familiar	5.20	2.11	5.31	0.20	0.645	
with Persian Medicine treatment methods.	5.20	2.11	3.31	0.20	0.645	
If I hold a training course on Persian Medicine						
for a short time (less than a week), I will	4.82	2.04	4.92	0.20	0.635	
participate in these courses						
If I hold a training course on Persian Medicine						
for a long time (one month), I will participate	4.26	2.15	4.23	0.21	0.997	
in these courses.						

Conclusion

- Overall, our findings showed that this course had a practical impact on medical science students' knowledge, practice, and attitudes toward Persian medicine.
- Although it did not result in significant changes in some aspects of knowledge, practice, and attitude, this education did influence a group of future healthcare providers' perceptions of Persian Medicine.
- This Persian Medicine course appears to be both an opportunity and a requirement for the medical sciences educational program.
- Despite having little practical knowledge of PM at the start of the course, which was mostly based on untrustworthy sources of information, many students agreed to include PM in the curriculum to advance their knowledge of PM and impart more scientific logic behind its use.
- As a result, advanced and basic PM education in medical sciences disciplines is required

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Effects of Persian Medicine on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Medical Sciences Students

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Abstrac

Background: Traditional medicine refers to a set of indigenous or acquired health care practices outside the mainstream health care system in any country. A wide range of people use traditional and complementary medicine in Iran, and due to its ancient Persian origin, it is known as Persian Medicine (PM). PM is used for a wide range of people and diseases because it comprises various treatment strategies. Thus, the familiarity of healthcare providers with it seems essential for them.

Methods: This quasi-experimental study was conducted to investigate the effect of PM education on the knowledge, attitude, and practice of medical sciences students in Iran. In this study, an educational intervention on knowledge, attitude, and practice of Persian medicine was conducted on medical sciences students in the fifth-largest region of health education in Iran. The data were collected from 99 medical sciences students. The knowledge of these participants was evaluated and compared before and after the courses by a questionnaire scored using 5-point Likert scale. Results: The mean score of selected students was 25.28 before starting the course, but after completing the course, their mean score of knowledge changed significantly and reached 31.03. Although, after the course, the use and attitude of these participants increased, these rises were statistically significant in a few items.

Conclusion: Overall, the findings of our study indicated that this course had a practical impact on medical science students' knowledge, practice, and attitude toward PM. Accordingly, this course will improve the insight of future healthcare providers about PM.

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Keywords: Medicine, Persian, Medicine, Traditional; Complementary therapies

Introduction

Traditional medicine refers to indigenous or acquired healthcare practices outside the mainstream health care system in any country. In some countries, complementary and Atternative Medicine (CAM) is unally used instead of traditional medicine. "I Traditional medicine is based on knowledge, skills, and practices based on theories.

balish, and indigenous experiences of different cultures, and complementary medicine (such as acupressure, yoga, massage, chiropractic, and other treatment modalities like them) as an alternative treatment crossed in conjunction with traditional medicine of any country. These methods, which are used to prevent, treat, and promote bealth, 1° have a variable range in terms of application in different countries. 1°



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The Effects of Persian Medicine on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Medical Sciences Students

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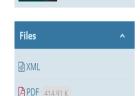
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Background: Traditional medicine refers to a set of indigenous or acquired health care practices outside the mainstream health care system in any country. A wide range of people use traditional and complementary medicine in Iran, and due to its ancient Persian origin, it is known as Persian Medicine (PM). PM is used for a wide range of people and diseases because it comprises various treatment strategies. Thus, the familiarity of healthcare providers with it seems essential for them.

Methods: This quasi-experimental study was conducted to investigate the effect of PM education on the knowledge, attitude, and practice of medical sciences students in Iran. In this study, an educational intervention on knowledge, attitude, and practice of Persian medicine was conducted on medical sciences students in the fifth-largest region of health education in Iran. The data







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