

Attitudes, Barriers, and Enablers Towards Conducting Primary Care Research In Banda Aceh, Indonesia

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Background: Conducting university-based research is important for informing primary care, especially in lower- and middle- income countries (LMICs) such as Indonesia. Understanding faculty members' perceptions of how research is conducted in this setting is crucial for the design and implementation of successful and sustainable research strategies to increase the quantity and quality of primary care research conducted at LMIC universities.

Objectives: to explore current attitudes of faculty members towards primary care research and identify any perceived barriers as well as the enablers/facilitators in conducting and producing research

Design: Descriptive-interpretive qualitative study.

Setting: This study took place at Syiah Kuala University (SKU), located in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

Participants: 29 SKU faculty members working as primary care physicians were enrolled. This number is representing 90% of all faculty members providing primary care at SKU.

Methods: A mixed-methods approach was used, combining the use of a participant survey with 10 focus group discussions. Thematic content analysis of the recorded transcripts was carried out.

Results: The majority of participants agreed that SKU has set research as a priority, as it is one of the three pillars of higher education, mandatory in all Indonesian higher education institutions. Barriers to conducting research, identified were: weak research policy, lack of research funding and infrastructure, complicated research bureaucracy and administrative process, as well as time constraints for conducting research relative to other duties. Personal motivation was a very important enabler/facilitator for increasing research activities. The majority of participants suggested that having local awards and formal recognition, having the opportunity to partner with local business and communities, provision of incentives, and having access to a research help-desk would be beneficial.

Limitation: One limitation is that the study only looked at one department at one university in Indonesia. Future research to expand the study to other universities in Indonesia and South East Asia would contribute to our understanding of research attitudes.

Conclusion: The themes were consistent during interviews and a saturation point was reached during interviews. Generally, participants showed a supportive and positive attitude towards research and provided examples of how to improve research productivity in the Asian university context.