

Factors & Perceptions Influencing Asian Physiotherapy Students in Choosing Physiotherapy as a Course

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ABSTRACT

The number of physiotherapists has been in a constant raise through the years but is inconsistent in some regions of Asia. Multiple factors and perceptions may influence the Asian students as they are choosing their field of studies. Examples include gender, salary, opportunity, family, and passion. They may also perceive physiotherapy differently as both a course and career. **Objectives:** To identify:

- I. The factors influencing Asian physiotherapy students in choosing to study physiotherapy.
- II. The perceptions influencing Asian physiotherapy students in choosing to study physiotherapy.
- III. The factors and perceptions influencing Asian physiotherapy students in choosing to study physiotherapy according to countries.

Descriptive cross sectional survey study. Self-administered questionnaire was done, involving physiotherapy students from 12 different Asian countries. Snowball sampling method and descriptive analysis was done to complete this study. "Desire to help others" (80.00%), "Opportunity to interact with other people" (70.48%) and "Job availability" (68.57%) are the top three factors influencing the students' choice. Top three perceptions towards physiotherapy were "A help to society" (75.24%), "Professional status" (53.16%) and "Professional autonomy" (54.29). Not much difference was noted among the countries. Physiotherapy is perceived similarly even in different countries. The factor which influenced the students the most, while they were choosing to study physiotherapy as a course, was their desire to help others and they perceive physiotherapy as a help to society. Salary received is a main concern for the participants.