

## **The Challenges And Implementation Of Problem Based Learning: An Experience Of An Indonesian University**

Masrul Muchtar<sup>1</sup>, Hardisman Dasman<sup>1</sup>, Elly Usman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Medicine, Andalas University, West Sumatera, Indonesia

**Introduction:** Problem Based Learning (PBL) is considered having advantages over traditional learning method in medical education. It provides integrated knowledge between basic medical sciences and clinical applications. It also stimulates critical thinking and clinical reasoning abilities. However, PBL requires more resources, which will be a challenge for the university. Indonesia has implemented PBL method since 2004, and Faculty of Medicine of Andalas University (FMAU) is the first medical school implemented the method in the country. Due to relatively new, the study on PBL in the country is very limited.

**Purpose:** In this study we aim to explore the experience and the challenges in the implementation of the PBL.

**Method:** The study is conducted in the context of explorative our experience in the implementation of PBL from 2004 to 2014 in FMAU. Qualitative inquiry is used by using thematic document analysis and observation.

**Results:** There are four themes that very important in the implementation of PBL, namely facilities, human resources, curriculum, and cooperation. In the last ten years all these factors have significantly improved in FMAU. The facilities such as library collection and laboratory and skill simulation equipments, which is very important in student independent learning has been improved by supporting from optimal of the school budget and as well as Health Workforce and Service (HWS) of World Bank Loan in 2004-2008, and Health Professional Education Quality (HPEQ) Project (2010-2014). Number of academic staff is increased by accepting 86 new staffs during the period. New curriculum is also implemented, which is more integrated and clear competency objectives. In supporting the curriculum, related educational training for academic staff is also conducted periodically. To maintain the quality of PBL, the school also needs to maintain optimal financial, facilities and systematic supports, which will be significant challenges. Moreover, cooperative among staffs and inter- department is continuously needed and applied.

**Conclusion:** PBL is a resource constraint system that requires financial support, staff commitment and cooperation among departments in the medical schools. Sustainability support is a key challenge to maintain learning quality in achieving goal of PBL.

**Keywords:** *PBL, Indonesia, Experience, Challenges*