



# GOOD TEACHER; STUDENT'S PERCEPTION ABOUT TOP QUALITIES IN HEALTH SCIENCES

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**ABSTRACT... Background:** The enriched learning and effective teaching is one of necessary aspect to develop competent health professionals. In literature number of studies presents the best qualities of an effective teacher. There are different descriptive surveys depicting the rating of student and expert professional opinion. **Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to determine the top qualities of a good teacher in health sciences. **Materials and Study Design:** A descriptive cross sectional study. **Methods:** **Setting:** Riphah College of rehabilitation sciences. **Period:** January – February 2014. **Methods:** 179 students were recruited in sample. A structured questionnaire was prepared and twenty qualities were selected after the detail review of literature. A scale ranging from 1 to 5 were described against each qualities from strongly disagree to strongly agree. **Results:** The result showed that the top qualities ranked by the students were effective communication skills score 112, encourage students 103, sound knowledge 100 and good presentation skills 99. The lowest score qualities were constructive criticism 28 and sense of humor 53. The 49% students want to be teacher while 51% don't want to be teacher in future. **Conclusion:** A good teacher has vital role in producing a good student. According to the perception of students a good teacher must have strong and effective communication skill, ability to motivate students and must have sound knowledge of subjects. This study suggests the basic training program for teacher to enhance the student teacher relationship. Further study should be done to explore the teacher's perception of a good teacher.

**Key words:** Teacher, qualities, Physical Therapy, communication skills

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## INTRODUCTION

Medical education is emerging field in health profession. John T Biehn<sup>1</sup> explained that medical teacher have no back ground of formal teaching. Reflection of characteristics of a teacher has significant impact on learning and development of students as well enhancing teacher student relationship.<sup>2-4</sup> In literature different qualities has been identified of an effective and good teacher.<sup>5-7</sup> Sutkin et al<sup>8</sup> reported five qualities "recognition of relationship, emotional activation, generate responsibility, self-awareness and competence. Some authors described professional collaboration,<sup>9</sup> Instability of self-confidence,<sup>10</sup> Encouraging creativity<sup>11</sup> and humor<sup>12</sup> as an important quality of teacher.

There are different criteria's used for the proper evaluation of teacher. The perception of students has critical role in recognizing the qualities of a good teacher.<sup>13-16</sup> The students categorized as

ideal teacher and their own self-images about teacher.<sup>(17)</sup> The peer and self- assessment is also important tool for evaluation.<sup>18,19</sup> Korthege<sup>20</sup> highlighted the good qualities of a teacher open a new horizon of research and learning for students. Sader<sup>21</sup> developed a questionnaire to measure perception of students about good qualities of a teacher; they also identified the expectation of student about their good teacher.<sup>22,23</sup> A questionnaire was designed which showed all areas of student's perception about qualities of a good teacher. It was reported to take caution which should be adopted to avoid misleading.<sup>24</sup> The main purpose of this study was to identify the top ten qualities of a good teacher according to perception of students and also to determine their willingness to become a teacher in future.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive cross sectional study design was used and 179 students were recruited in

sample from Riphah College of Rehabilitation Sciences during January- February 2014. A structured questionnaire was developed and 20 qualities were finalized to assess the perception of students after the detail review of literature. A scale ranging from 1 to 5 were described against each qualities and 1 means strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree. The top 10 scored qualities were highlighted and a descriptive analysis was done on SPSS 20.

**RESULTS**

The result showed that the top qualities ranked by the students were effective communication skills score 112, encourage students 103, sound knowledge 100 and good presentation skills 99. The lowest score qualities were constructive criticism 28 and sense of humor 53. 49% student wants to be teacher in future while 51% don't want to be teacher.

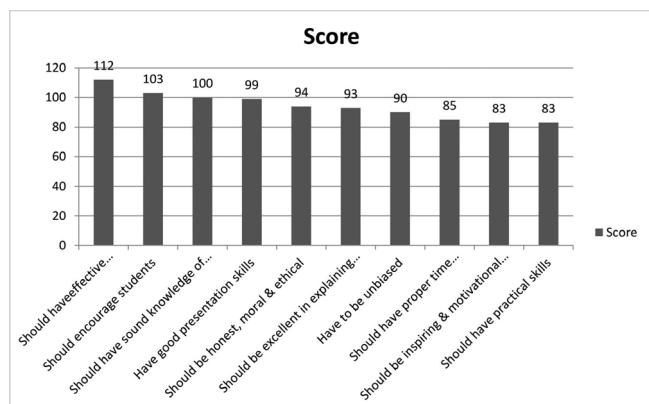


Figure-1. Shows the top ten qualities of a good teacher

**DISCUSSION**

This study reported the top ten qualities of a good teacher according to perception of students. Nany<sup>25</sup> noted that the majority teachers learn by following their teachers as there is no formal training for medical teacher. In this study effective communication was rated highest score by the students. In a study Young<sup>14</sup> effective communication was considered in top seven qualities. Another study reported communication skill as excellent tool for teaching clinical subjects and in ambulatory setting.<sup>26</sup> Ride<sup>27</sup> stated “Communication is a core clinical skill that can

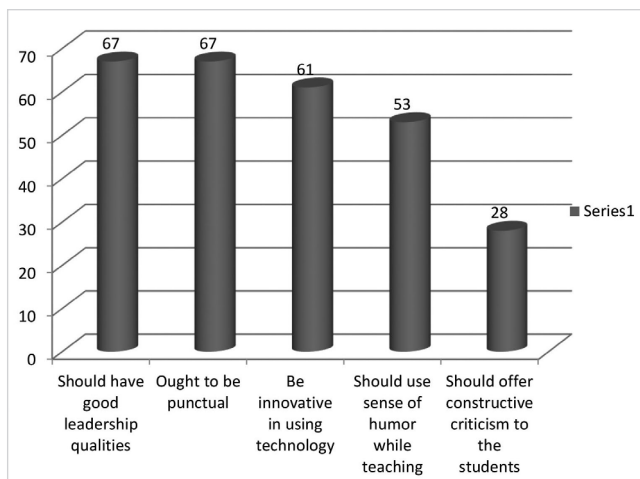


Figure-2. Shows the five least qualities of a good teacher

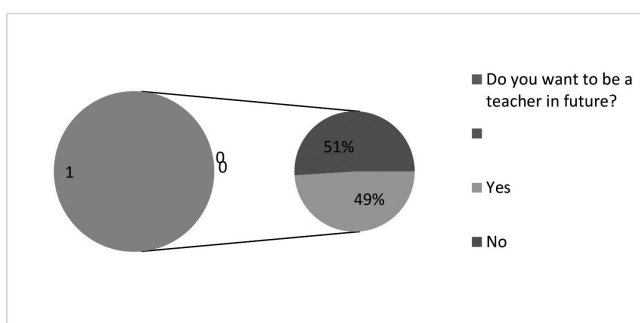


Figure-3. Shows the aptitude of students towards teaching

be taught and learned. The second top quality was encouraging students and Moore<sup>28</sup> reported that in top quality of a teacher are encouraging, competent and well read.

The third quality was sound knowledge of subject Tayo<sup>29</sup> described that there is strong relationship between knowledge and teaching. Iray<sup>30</sup> explained different domains of teacher and found sound knowledge have significant importance. Personality characteristics include honesty, moral and ethical values listed in top five qualities. Tang et al<sup>31</sup> explained that such characteristics differentiate a good teacher from an ordinary teacher. Inspiration, motivation and enthusiasm are also included in top qualities. Duvivier et al<sup>32</sup> considered enthusiasm is one of important quality of a good teacher. In this study it was found that humor and constructive criticism rated lowest level. There is dire need to find and explore the

perception and opinions of students about these qualities.

## CONCLUSION

A good teacher has vital role in producing a good student. According to the perception of students a good teacher must have strong and effective communication skill, ability to motivate students and must have sound knowledge of subjects.

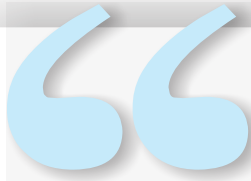
This study suggests the basic training program for teacher to enhance the student teacher relationship. Further study should be done to explore the teacher's perception of a good teacher.

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“Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.”

Karl Barth



#### AUTHORSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION DECLARATION

Sr. #	Author-s Full Name	Contribution to the paper	Author=s Signature
1	Arshad Nawaz Malik	Concept and design Data collection Statistical expertise Critical review and writing	
2	Sana Bashir	Data collection Analysis Initial draft writing	