

INTRODUCTION

Risk represents stages in science where imagination plays a significant part. The science of risk in pharmaceutical processes was, until recently, mostly unmarked and unexamined as a scientific process.

Students following courses at the Department of Pharmacy within the University of Malta undertook different projects related to risk in pharmaceutical processes to reflect through practice fieldwork on the concept of risk.

AIM

To reflect, through different research methods, on the concept of risk and risk management in different pharmaceutical processes.

METHOD

Students following either the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology or the Master of Science in Pharmacy programmes carried out a project on an aspect related to risk and risk management. Different research methods were used to gather scientific knowledge on the concept of risk.

RESULTS

- Research on the area of risk was undertaken by 7 students (2017-2020), with 3 students following the Master of Science in Pharmacy degree and 4 following the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology degree (Figure 1).
- Pharmaceutical technology students participated in projects in areas related to:
 - risk in the pharmaceutical industry,
 - risks in pharmaceutical processes,
 - perception of risk among pharmaceutical stakeholders,
 - risk of using returned medicines.
- Pharmacy students participated in research areas related to:
 - risk of data integrity of electronic records in the pharmaceutical industry,
 - risk assessments in pharmaceutical processes,
 - risk management in the manufacture of solid oral dosage forms.
- Students adopted different data collection methods, including questionnaires, interviews and focus groups.

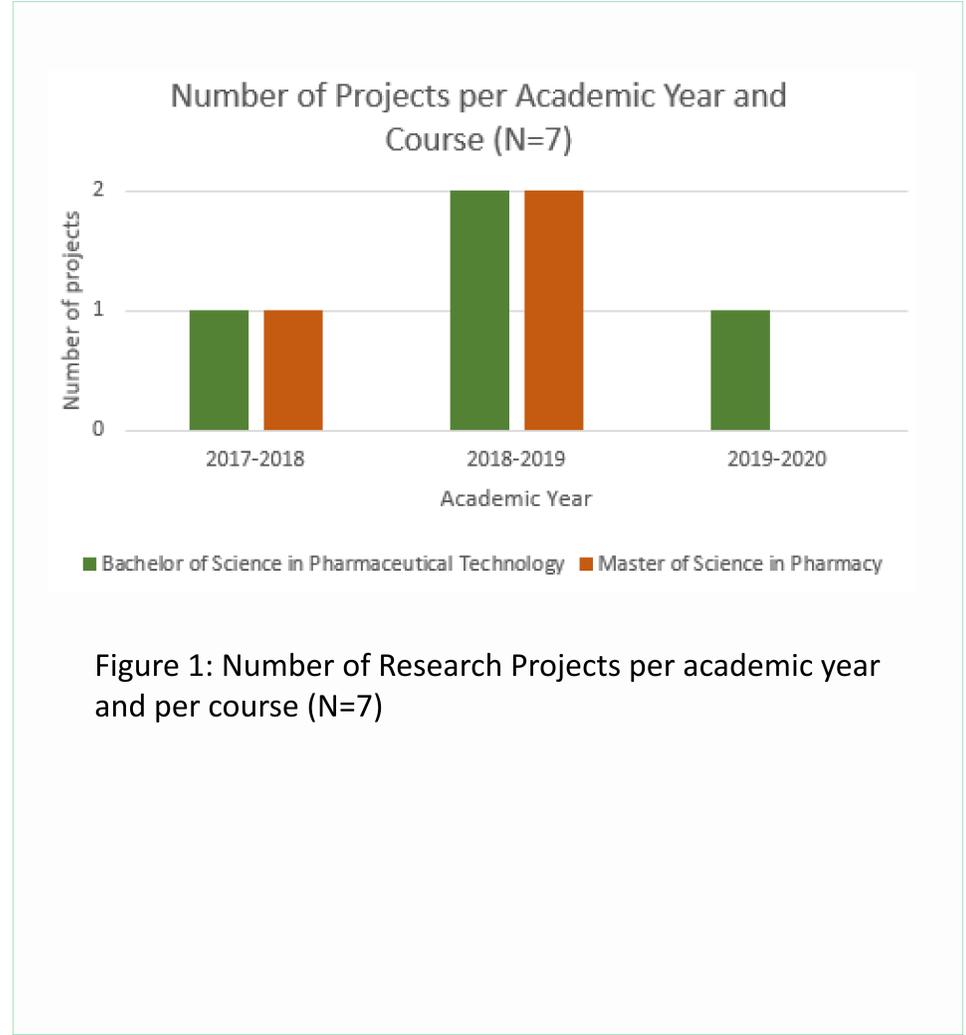


Figure 1: Number of Research Projects per academic year and per course (N=7)

CONCLUSION

Through this teaching model, students participated in research projects undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders including the pharmaceutical industry, health professionals and patients. This experience provided the opportunity to students to understand implications of the science of risk in pharmaceutical processes and to reflect on the perspectives of society of risk identification and mitigation strategies.