

Malaysian Health Literacy: Socio-Demography Odd Ratio Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Odd ratio analysis was carried out on National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019 Health Literacy data using multinomial logistic regression (MLR) model to measure association between the population socio-demography characteristics and health literacy status. **Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study and the dependent variable is a three-level category of health literacy; 1-Limited, 2-Sufficient and 3-Excellent. The independent variables are the population socio-demographic characteristics inclusive of sex, age, strata, marital status, education, ethnic group, income and occupation. The sample size is 8,936 cases. **Results:** Overall contribution of independent variables to the model shows high significant result (p-value<0.001) of association between health literacy with age, marital status, education and ethnic group; and occupation and income (p-value<0.250). Comparison between Malaysian population having Limited and Excellent health literacy status shows significant association in all age groups, among all ethnic groups (except Bumiputera Sabah), and government sector employees (p-value=0.030). Comparison between the population having Limited and Sufficient health literacy status shows evidence of significant association in all age groups, tertiary education (p-value=0.036), Malays (p-value<0.001) and Bumiputera Sabah (p-value=0.018), government (p-value=0.024) and private sectors employees (p-value=0.010), and M40 income group (p-value=0.002). **Conclusion:** Adjusted odds ratios analysis show that in general, the population of younger ages has higher odds for higher literacy level and is more obvious among the Excellent, in relative to Sufficient. Males had lower odds compared to females however the tests were not significant. Compared to rural, urban population had higher odds to be in the Excellent health literacy status (p-value<0.10).

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Prospective Cross-sectional Study on Mother's Knowledge and Attitude on Childhood Immunisation in Sibul Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The number of vaccine refusal cases is in an increasing trend in Malaysia. Since parents are the main decision makers for their children to have immunization, this study was conducted to explore the knowledge and attitude of mothers towards childhood immunization in Sibul, Sarawak. **Methods:** A prospective cross-sectional study was conducted in antenatal, postnatal and 3 paediatric wards in Sibul Hospital, Malaysia. Cluster sampling method was used where data collection was done on 8 randomly selected working days from July to October 2020. All mothers (excluding staffs) in the wards were approached. Self-administered questionnaire (validated) was given to mothers after obtaining written consent. Results were analysed using descriptive statistics. **Results:** A total of 201 respondents were included in the study, 56% was Iban with mean age of 28 and number of children of 2. The mean score of knowledge was 6.43 (out of 10). About 66% of subjects agreed to the incorrect statement that healthy children do not need immunization. In term of attitude, more than 80% of subjects agreed to positive statements. However, only 56% agreed that they were well informed about the possible side effects from vaccination. For vaccines that are not provided under national immunization programme, more than 70% of the subjects were willing to pay to receive influenza and hepatitis-A vaccine for their children. **Conclusion:** Knowledge about childhood vaccination is still inadequate among mothers. We suggest healthcare providers to give adequate information about childhood vaccination to mothers during Maternal and Child Health (MCH) follow up.