

Healthcare services for Orang Asli (OA) women in rural Pahang: what they need?

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Determining the current patients' satisfaction is essential for further improvement of the healthcare services. However, studies on patients' satisfaction level among the marginalised community especially aboriginal people are insufficient. Generally, in Malaysia, the aborigines is known as Orang Asli (OA). This sub study involved Semai Tribe from Pahang rural settlement and aimed to assess the level of patient's satisfaction at the public health clinics (KlinikDesa). **Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted in August 2014. Target respondents were among OA women within the reproductive age group of 15-49 years old from the rural settlements in Pahang, namely Pos A and Pos B. These settlements were selected based on the high concentration of OA population as recommended by Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli. All eligible respondents were interviewed by trained interviewers. The respondents were asked on their perceptions towards healthcare services in health clinics nearby their village. **Results:** Only 247 out of 252 data from the respondents were qualified for further analysis. Almost 73% of the respondents were satisfied with the current health clinics services. More than 70% of the respondents were satisfied with equipment provided in the health clinics. However, only 69% were satisfied with the services provided by the local healthcare personnel (community nurses). **Discussion:** From this study, about one third of the OA women dissatisfied with the healthcare services provided. Most of the respondents felt that they need new and more spacious Klinik Desa with 4x4 vehicles (including driver). Other than that, the respondents highlighted that they require resident Medical Officers and more caring community nurses. A series of discussion has been made by the local stakeholders following this study to overcome the raised issues. Patients' satisfaction survey among OA communities should be conducted periodically in future to sustain high quality of healthcare services provision.

KEY WORDS:

Orang Asli, Satisfaction, Health

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How do the various media types and vape shops impact the perception of e-cigarettes use and harm in Malaysia?

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The popularity of e-cigarettes over conventional cigarettes is important to examine e-cigarette perceptions as to some why current cigarette smokers make a switch, while some do not. The objective of this study is to examine current smokers' perceptions on e-cigarette use following exposure to information derived from media and vape shop messages promoting its use and harm. **Methods:** The current cross-sectional study is part of a national prevalence study on electronic cigarettes. The focus of this paper is on the perceptions of current adult male smokers towards e-cigarettes. A total of 922 male current smokers (smoking conventional cigarettes and /or e-cigarettes) aged 18 years and above were recorded using face-to-face interviews. Logistic regression was used to examine the association between media exposure and e-cigarette perceptions. **Results:** About half of the respondents were within the age 25 - 44 years old. About one third of the respondents reported they had ever-used electronic cigarettes (29.1%). Current male smokers who visited a vape shop and exposed to information about the dangers of smoking e-cigarette were four times more likely to perceive that people reacted more positively to e-cigarettes users than that to tobacco smokers (OR=4.09; p=0.011; CI=1.38-12.12). Current smokers who are exposed to social media or the internet in both messages promoting the use of e-cigarettes and about the harmfulness of the use are more likely to perceive that the urge to smoke is reduced by using e-cigarettes (OR=1.66; p=0.013; CI=1.11-2.49; OR=1.65; p=0.015; CI=1.10-2.48) respectively. **Discussion:** Finding from this study presents one of the first ever to identify the different types of media influencing the perceptions of current smokers on e-cigarettes use in Malaysia.