

## COMBI (Communication for Behavioural Impact) for Dengue Prevention in Bentong

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### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** In Malaysia, the COMBI approach has been used to control dengue. COMBI is a behavioural-focused social mobilization and communication programme for communicable diseases prevention and control. This study aimed to compare the knowledge and practice regarding dengue prevention between the communities with COMBI and those without COMBI. **METHODS:** This was an interviewer-administered, cross-sectional study in Bentong, Pahang involving 420 randomly selected respondents recruited from two communities with COMBI and two communities without COMBI. **RESULTS:** 262 respondents were selected from communities with COMBI while 158 from communities without COMBI. The mean age of the respondents from communities with and without COMBI were 45.49±17.62 and 47.94±16.70 years respectively ( $p=0.783$ ). The education level was similar between both communities ( $p=0.256$ ). Only 334(79.5%) of the respondents manage to correctly answer 75% of the questions. The mean knowledge score for communities with and without COMBI were 29.54± 8.33 and 30.07± 6.72 respectively ( $p=0.498$ ). Mean dengue prevention practices score for communities with and without COMBI were 6.64± 1.81 and 5.01± 2.25 respectively ( $p<0.01$ ). 95.8% respondents from communities with COMBI sought treatment within 3 days of fever as compared to 79% of respondents from communities without COMBI ( $p<0.01$ ). This study found no association between knowledge with practice, ( $r=-0.038$ ,  $p=0.441$ ). **CONCLUSION:** The dengue knowledge was non-satisfactory. This provides an opportunity for enhancing health education and promotion. Furthermore, the implementation of COMBI appears to be an effective way to promote dengue prevention activities among the communities.

**KEYWORDS:** COMBI, dengue prevention, knowledge, practice

## Community Engagement Programmes Under Cheras District Health Office in Year 2018: SWOT Analysis

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### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** Community engagement is a process of working collaboratively among groups of people affiliated by similar situations, conditions or region to address issues affecting their health. This study aims to describe community engagement programmes conducted under Cheras District Health Office in 2018 and analyse their strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT). **METHODS:** This is a qualitative case study design of purposively sampled thirteen community engagement programmes by using secondary data in form of manual, proposals, and reports. **RESULTS:** The general objectives of the programmes include primary and secondary prevention as well as community empowerment to care for their health. Level of engagement varies from inform (6), consult (1), involve (2), collaborate (2), and shared-leadership (2). Strength includes availability of manual with clear organisational structure. However, there were internal constraints in term of financial support, overlapping multitasking team and transportation. There were also lack of clear evaluation system as evidence-based guide for planning, implementation and future improvement. Despite having support from the top community leader, there was inadequate support from the grassroots' target community, possibly due to perceive non-important of the programme. **DISCUSSION:** Generally, there is a huge room for improvement as most community engagement programmes in Cheras District Health Office for year 2018 did not reach shared-leadership level. A comprehensive evaluation at planning stage (needs assessment), implementation stage (formative and process evaluation), and completion stage (summative, outcome and impact evaluation) should be considered to improve the level of engagement towards empowering community in taking care for their health.

**KEYWORDS:** community, engagement, public health, Cheras