

## Mass Hysteria among Secondary School Students in Kelantan

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Despite rising incidences of hysteria especially among school students in Malaysia this phenomenon still puzzles and brings challenges to many parties. The continuity of teaching and learning as well as other activities are often disrupted by this scenario, often forcing temporary school closure to deal due to the occurrence of such outbreaks. Despite the rising incidences, study in relation to it is still limited. The aims of this study were to explore and interpret this phenomenon and then to explore the cultural factors that conceptualizes the hysteria expressions that are unique among school students Kelantan, Malaysia. **Methods:** Qualitative interpretative phenomenological approach with face-to-face interviews were conducted among 20 Malay adolescents using the semi-structured in-depth interview guide. **Results:** The mean age of participants were 14.3 years and all of them are Malay Muslims. Fifty percentage of participants were either youngest or eldest siblings and majority of the participants came from low socioeconomic household. The experience and interpretation of hysteria emerged as 'Culture Stereotyping', 'Idiom of Distress' and 'Social Reinforcement Factors'. **Conclusion:** As the hysteria phenomenon is the intermeshed of deep-rooted cultural influence with the mental health issues, the management would need cultural competency and sensitivity apart from further psychological and emotional evaluation by the health professionals.

## Predicting the Outcome of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program: A Modeling Study

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Malaysia rolled out the national COVID-19 immunization program in March 2021 aiming to eliminate the COVID-19 pandemic with 70% population immunity. The study aimed to investigate the outcome of the immunization program at different vaccination rates and vaccine efficacy (VE). **Methods:** A two-dose compartmental vaccine model with herd effect was developed, calibrated, and parameterized using actual COVID-19 cases from 7 April to 31 May 2021. The model generated a baseline scenario prior to the third movement control order (MCO 3.0) with 70% and 90% VE for the first and second dose of vaccine, a vaccination rate of 24000 first dose per day (FDPD), and 6- and 12-month immunity coverage for both natural and vaccine immunity. The impact of different VE combinations at different vaccination rates was investigated. **Results:** The surge of COVID-19 cases prior to the MCO 3.0 was characterized by a basic reproduction number of 1.51. Daily and active infections were expected to peak at 34971 cases per day and 424189 cases without the lockdown, respectively. To achieve total control by the end of 2021, the vaccination rate needs to be maintained above 100 000 FDPD. The new and active infections can be suppressed by 51.1% to 65.4% and 54.4% to 68.0% at 100 000 FDPD, and by 60.9% to 69.7% and 64.7% to 72.7% at 150 000 FDPD, respectively. **Conclusion:** The MCO 3.0 accelerates the elimination of the pandemic. With the high vaccination rate, the COVID-19 pandemic can be significantly contained by the end of 2021.