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Malaysia



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

**From Evidence To Legacy:
Transforming Research into Sustainable Action**

3-5 DECEMBER 2025

Venues:

Curtin University Malaysia,
Miri, Sarawak.

Eastwood Valley Golf &
Country Club, Miri, Sarawak.

PROGRAMME BOOK

In partnership with:





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GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

The GlobeSync Community Research and Sustainability Conference (GLOBECoReS) 2025, organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia, will take place from 3 to 5 December 2025 at Curtin University Malaysia and the Eastwood Valley Golf & Country Club, Sarawak. Guided by the theme “From Evidence to Legacy: Transforming Research into Sustainable Action,” the conference convenes a vibrant network of scholars, practitioners, policymakers, postgraduate students, and community leaders committed to shaping sustainable futures through evidence-informed innovation.

The 2025 edition strengthens GlobeSync’s core mission to cultivate interdisciplinary research, nurture impactful partnerships, and advance community-centred solutions that respond to emerging societal needs. The programme features pre-conference capacity-building workshops, keynote addresses by global thought leaders, high-level panel dialogues, thematic plenaries, and scientific paper presentations. Together, these sessions explore critical frontiers—including sustainability transitions, digital health and AI, ageing and longevity, Indigenous knowledge systems, environmental stewardship, and community resilience—closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Sarawak’s Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

A distinctive hallmark of GLOBECoReS is its strong emphasis on translating research into real-world impact. In 2025, this commitment is further amplified through several strategic highlights:

- University-Industry MOU Signings, strengthening transdisciplinary collaboration and accelerating innovation ecosystems;
- Launch of Three Books, showcasing the conference’s intellectual contributions to ageing, sustainability, and inclusive development;
- Debut of the GlobeSync Podcast: The Circle of Care, amplifying the voices and stories of older adults and Indigenous communities across the region;
- Global Symposium on Ageing and Longevity, providing a dedicated platform to address demographic transition, healthy ageing, and long-term care;
- SDG School Competitions, nurturing youth leadership and reinforcing the principle that in sustainable development, “no one is left behind.”

Since its establishment, the GlobeCoReS platform has evolved into a leading catalyst for community-engaged scholarship in Malaysia and beyond. It has convened international delegates from across the globe, produced multiple knowledge transfer programmes throughout Sarawak and Borneo, and strengthened regional capacity through meaningful, long-term partnerships.

In continuing this trajectory, GLOBECoReS 2025 represents a significant step forward in fostering resilient, equitable, and sustainable societies. It positions evidence not merely as knowledge to be disseminated but as a legacy to be built—where research inspires action, partnerships drive transformation, and communities become active agents in shaping their shared future.



Embracing Sustainability

GlobeCoReS 2025 is committed to practical, measurable sustainability actions that go beyond slogans and deliver real benefits to people and planet. Every delegate, partner, and supplier has a role in safeguarding the future of Borneo and the wider region. Our approach aligns with the UN SDGs, Sarawak's PCDS 2030, and Curtin University's sustainability priorities.

GlobeCoReS 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—17 goals with 169 targets adopted by all UN Member States—provide a shared blueprint for a world free of poverty, hunger, and preventable disease by 2030.

At GlobeCoReS 2025, we turn that blueprint into practice across our entire conference value chain. We prioritise actions that are measurable, people-centred, and locally grounded in Sarawak while contributing to global progress. We actively support, among others:

- SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being – Safe, inclusive event design and health-promoting choices.
- SDG 4: Quality Education – Open knowledge sharing, youth/teacher tracks, and student SDG competitions.
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities – Local procurement, accessibility, and respect for Indigenous communities.
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production – Waste reduction, circular materials, supplier standards.
- SDG 13: Climate Action – Lower-carbon operations, footprint tracking, and continuous improvement.
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals – MOUs that deliver community pilots and lasting legacy projects.

Our promise: from evidence to action—every session, partnership, and operational choice should leave a positive, measurable footprint on people and planet.

Sustainability for All Ages

Sustainability is lifelong and intergenerational. GlobeCoReS 2025 nurtures the younger generation through:

- A national SDG competition for school-aged children, showcasing student solutions and youth leadership.
- Dedicated youth and teacher tracks with practical tools to implement SDG projects in schools and communities.

This is Malaysia's first sustainability conference to meaningfully involve school-aged children in SDG promotion at scale (with youth participation embedded across programme, exhibitions, and awards).

What We're Doing (Organizer Commitments)

Reduce paper consumption - step up to a paperless conference: Use the app/QR codes for programme, bookings, and contacts. Please bring and reuse the conference notebook provided; limited printing on recycled paper only.

Waste-smart operations: Segregation stations; no single-use plastics; badge/lanyard return points.

Refill culture: Water refill stations; BYO mug/tumbler; onsite wash points.

Sustainable build: Reused/recyclable staging and signage; rental/modular booths preferred.

Inclusive & accessible: Step-free access, priority seating, quiet room, lactation space, multi-faith prayer area.

Local & Indigenous respect: Showcase Sarawak producers; recognise Indigenous knowledge with fair compensation.



Getting around: Shuttles and walkable routes between venues; encourage shared rides.

Transparency: Post-event sustainability summary (waste diverted, % plant-based meals, lanyards returned, estimated CO₂e).

Contributions You Can Make as a GlobeCoReS Delegate

Go paper-light – Use the app/QR codes; use your reusable notebook instead of handouts.

Reduce waste – Bring a tote; refuse unused swag; sort recyclables/organics; return badges/lanyards.

Use reusables – Bring your tumbler; refill at water points.

Travel smarter – Use shuttles, rideshare, or walk when possible.

Respect people and place – Honour cultural protocols, support local vendors, keep spaces clean.

Exhibitors & Sponsors: Our Green Expectations

- Reusable/recyclable booth materials; avoid PVC and single-use plastics.
- Useful, durable giveaways—or go swag-free with digital perks.
- Minimise printed flyers; use QR; power down equipment when not in use.
- Take back all materials for reuse or proper recycling.

Legacy: From Evidence to Action

GlobeCoReS 2025 converts conference outputs into community projects, student-led initiatives, and policy briefs. We will track:

- % plant-forward meals; kg waste diverted; % lanyards returned
- # of MOUs -pilot projects launched within 12 months
- Youth/teacher participation
- Estimated event CO₂e and improvements for next year

Join us. Small choices at scale create lasting change. Together, we make GlobeCoReS not only inspiring—but sustainable for all ages.



Welcoming Message



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Conference Chairperson

**Professor Dr. Roy
Rillera Marzo**

*Dean,
Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences,
Curtin University Malaysia and
Director,
GlobeSync Community Research and Sustainability Hub
Curtin University, Malaysia*

“It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the GlobeSync Community Research and Sustainability Conference 2025 in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia, organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia. This year’s theme, “From Evidence to Legacy: Transforming Research into Sustainable Action,” reflects our shared commitment to ensuring that research does not end at publication but translates into tangible, lasting impact for communities, systems, and the planet—guided by the principle that No One Left Behind.

GlobeCoReS was conceived as more than an academic event. It is a collaborative platform where researchers, practitioners, policymakers, community leaders, students, and industry partners come together to co-create solutions, challenge assumptions, and learn from one another. The work presented at this conference spans diverse disciplines and geographies, yet it is united by a focus on real-world relevance, equity, and sustainability, strongly aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At its heart, this conference is a reminder that we are the legacy—through the choices we make, the partnerships we build, and the communities we serve.

This year, we are honoured to feature several key highlights that embody the “evidence to legacy” journey. We will formalise strategic partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding with university and industry collaborators, strengthening our capacity for long-term, transdisciplinary engagement. These MOUs are not merely ceremonial; they represent synergistic alliances that bring together complementary strengths, resources, and networks so that our collective efforts can achieve more than any institution or sector could accomplish alone. We will also celebrate scholarly contributions through the launch of three books that capture advances in public health, ageing, and sustainability—tangible outputs of collaborative work that will continue to inform policy and practice beyond this conference.

In addition, we are inaugurating the GlobeSync Podcast: “The Circle of Care”, a platform that will amplify voices across generations and sectors, ensuring that insights from practice, policy, and lived experience reach wider audiences. The Global Symposium on Ageing and Longevity will convene experts and advocates to address one of the most significant demographic transformations of our time, with a focus on healthy, inclusive, and sustainable ageing. Equally important, our SDG-themed competitions—especially those engaging schools, students, and young leaders—highlight our commitment to nurturing the next generation of change-makers. These activities remind us that sustainability is not only about policies and systems, but also about empowering people and communities to act, innovate, and lead.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all presenters and participants for contributing your time, expertise, and insights. Your dedication to advancing knowledge, often in complex and resource-constrained contexts, is at the heart of this conference. I encourage you to use these days to deepen dialogue and build new partnerships. Together, let us explore concrete pathways to scale and sustain the innovations and ideas shared here.

My heartfelt thanks also go to the Scientific and Organising Committees, abstract reviewers, track chairs, volunteers, and our institutional and community partners and sponsors. Your hard work and support have made this conference possible and have helped us maintain an inclusive platform that amplifies voices from across regions, disciplines, and career stages.

On behalf of the GlobeSync Community Research and Sustainability Conference 2025, I warmly welcome you and wish you an engaging, inspiring, and impactful experience. May the connections you make and the conversations you begin here grow into a lasting legacy—in policies, in practices, and in communities—that advances healthier, more just, and more sustainable futures for all.

”



Welcoming Message



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Patron

Professor Dr. Vincent Lee Chieng Chen

*Pro Vice-Chancellor,
President and Chief Executive,
Curtin University, Malaysia.*



“ It gives me great pleasure to welcome all delegates and partners to the GlobeSync: Community Research & Sustainability Conference (GlobeCoReS) 2025, held under the theme “From Evidence to Legacy: Transforming Research into Sustainable Action.”

As Curtin University's largest international campus and regional hub in Asia, Curtin University Malaysia is proud to host this distinguished gathering of scholars, practitioners, and community leaders from across the world. In just two years, GlobeCoReS has become one of the most dynamic and inclusive sustainability conferences in the region.

Curtin Malaysia is among the top institutions in Borneo and a leading university in the region, recognised for excellence in education, research, and strategic partnerships. Our interdisciplinary research is guided by real-world challenges and strengthened through collaboration with government, industry, and community organisations, aligning closely with Sarawak's focus on sustainability, innovation, and evidence-based policy.

The conference theme “From Evidence to Legacy” embodies our mission: transforming research into meaningful, lasting outcomes that improve lives and safeguard our shared future. This spirit is also reflected in the co-launched Global Symposium on Ageing and Longevity (GSAL 2025), which addresses one of today's most pressing social and health challenges—ensuring longer lives are healthier, inclusive, and dignified.

GlobeCoReS 2025 exemplifies Curtin Malaysia's commitment to creating spaces where knowledge transcends disciplines and borders. By bringing together researchers, policymakers, Indigenous voices, NGOs, and industry partners, the conference fosters co-creation of solutions for a more equitable and sustainable world. It also reflects our alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Sarawak's vision of community-driven growth.

With over a thousand participants, including more than four hundred in Miri, we are reminded that sustainability begins with shared understanding and collective action. May this conference inspire new collaborations, strengthen partnerships, and ignite ideas that shape resilient, empowered communities for generations to come.

On behalf of Curtin University Malaysia, I extend my deepest appreciation to Professor Roy Rillera Marzo, the Organising Committee, our partners, speakers, and delegates for their dedication. Together, we move from evidence to legacy, building a future defined not only by knowledge, but by its enduring impact.

Welcome to GlobeCoReS 2025 - and welcome to Curtin Malaysia, where global engagement meets local purpose.





Welcoming Message



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YB Datuk Amar Professor Sim Kui Hian

*Deputy Premier of Sarawak and Minister for Public
Health, Housing and Local Government,
Sarawak, Malaysia*

“ As Sarawak strengthens its commitment to public health, sustainable development, and community wellbeing, platforms like the GlobeSync: Community Research and Sustainability Conference (GlobeCoReS 2025) play a vital role in turning knowledge into meaningful impact.

I commend Curtin University Malaysia for leading this initiative, which brings together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to exchange ideas, forge partnerships, and translate research into action that improves lives.

The conference theme, “From Evidence to Legacy: Transforming Research into Sustainable Action”, reflects a key truth in public health and community development - that evidence alone is not enough. Progress happens when research informs policy and when communities are empowered to shape their own futures.

Sarawak’s Post-COVID Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 places health, housing, and local governance at the heart of holistic development. We recognise that wellbeing depends not only on access to healthcare but also on safe housing, sustainable environments, and strong community networks. In this regard, GlobeCoReS aligns closely with our mission to build healthy, inclusive, and resilient communities.

I am encouraged by Curtin Malaysia’s leadership in advancing this agenda through interdisciplinary research and community partnerships. The concurrent Global Symposium on Ageing and Longevity (GSAL 2025) is especially timely, highlighting the importance of collaboration in promoting active ageing and healthcare innovation - key priorities for Sarawak’s future.

The conference’s focus on cross-sector collaboration, community engagement, and sustainability-driven policy reflects the principles guiding our ministry’s work. I also welcome the establishment of the GlobeSync Consortium, which will unite academic and community institutions worldwide to turn research into real-world impact.

To the organising team at Curtin Malaysia, I extend my sincere appreciation for your dedication and vision. Your work exemplifies how academia, government, and society can work together to advance health, equity, and sustainable development.

I wish all delegates a productive and inspiring conference. May your discussions in Miri lead to enduring collaborations and transformative outcomes that contribute to healthier, more sustainable communities in Sarawak and beyond.

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YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn

*Minister for Education, Innovation
and Talent Development Sarawak,
Malaysia*



“ It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Curtin University Malaysia on hosting the GlobeSync: Community Research & Sustainability Conference (GlobeCoReS 2025), a distinguished platform that continues to champion research-driven, community-centred, and sustainability-focused collaboration.

In just its second year, GlobeCoReS has already become a landmark regional event, reflecting Sarawak's growing reputation as a hub for innovation, research excellence, and sustainable development. The theme “From Evidence to Legacy: Transforming Research into Sustainable Action” perfectly captures the spirit of this decade - one in which knowledge must translate into tangible outcomes that improve lives, protect our environment, and strengthen communities for generations to come.

Curtin Malaysia, as the largest international campus of Curtin University and a key partner in Sarawak's research and innovation ecosystem, is well positioned to lead this endeavour. Its global network, multidisciplinary expertise, and strong ties with industry and government make it a catalyst for impactful research and innovation. The university's commitment to community engagement, sustainable solutions, and translational research aligns closely with the Sarawak Government's vision for a knowledge-based, innovation-driven economy.

GlobeCoReS 2025 embodies these shared aspirations. By bringing together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders from around the world, it fosters dialogue and co-creation of knowledge that address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. Whether through discussions on indigenous wisdom, sustainable health systems, or responsible resource management, the conference contributes meaningfully to Sarawak's Post-COVID Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030, especially its pillars of education, innovation, and talent development.

I am also heartened to learn that the GlobeSync Consortium will soon be formalised as a global alliance of academic and community institutions working collectively on sustainability initiatives. This forward-looking model of partnership - one that transcends borders and disciplines - shows how collaboration and inclusivity can create lasting impact and legacy.

To the organisers, led by Professor Roy Rillera Marzo and the Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences at Curtin Malaysia, I commend your dedication and vision in curating a platform that unites thought leaders and changemakers from around the world.

I wish all participants a productive and inspiring conference. May your exchanges spark new ideas, forge enduring collaborations, and lead to solutions that leave a legacy of sustainability and shared prosperity for all.

Congratulations once again to Curtin University Malaysia for its leadership in convening GlobeCoReS 2025 and for its unwavering commitment to shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for Sarawak and beyond.

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Welcoming Message



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Dr. Veronica Lugah

*Director,
Sarawak Health Department,
Ministry of Health Department, Malaysia*

“ Warmest greetings to all delegates, partners, and organisers of the GlobeSync: Community Research & Sustainability Conference (GlobeCoReS) 2025.

This year's conference theme strongly resonates with the mission of the Sarawak Health Department, where we continuously strive to translate scientific evidence and community insights into meaningful public health action. Achieving better health and wellbeing for all Sarawakians requires not only sound research but also collaboration, innovation, and a sustained commitment to equitable development.

The challenges of our time - from the health impacts of climate change and urbanisation to the rise of non-communicable diseases and ageing populations - demand integrative approaches that connect health, education, and sustainability.

Initiatives like GlobeCoReS 2025 provide a vital platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and partnership across disciplines and borders. By bringing together academia, government, industry, and civil society, the conference embodies the cross-sector collaboration essential to real and lasting progress.

The co-launch of the Global Symposium on Ageing and Longevity (GSAL 2025) is especially timely, addressing one of the most pressing health and social challenges of the century. As Sarawak works to ensure its people not only live longer but age well, the insights and innovations from GSAL 2025 will help shape future strategies and policies for healthy and inclusive ageing.

The Sarawak Health Department values the critical role of research and education in driving evidence-based health policies and interventions. The integration of data, research outcomes, and community engagement - championed by GlobeCoReS - is central to building a sustainable health ecosystem that empowers communities and strengthens system resilience.

I commend Curtin University Malaysia and all partners for their leadership in fostering global collaboration and positioning Miri as a hub for research, education, and innovation in sustainability and public health. Your efforts support Sarawak's vision of a healthier, more sustainable, and knowledge-driven society.

To all participants, I encourage you to engage actively, share insights, and forge partnerships that turn today's discussions into tomorrow's solutions. Together, let us ensure that the knowledge generated here becomes not just evidence, but a legacy of action that benefits our communities, our environment, and future generations.

I extend my best wishes for a successful and impactful GlobeCoReS 2025.





Keynote and Plenary Speakers



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**YB Datuk Amar Professor
Sim Kui Hian**

*Deputy Premier of Sarawak and
Minister for Public Health, Housing
and Local Government Sarawak,
Malaysia*

YB Datuk Amar Professor Sim Kui Hian is a distinguished healthcare professional and academic, currently serving as the Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government of Sarawak. With a long and accomplished career in medicine, Professor Sim has made significant contributions to the healthcare sector in Malaysia, particularly in the areas of medical education, clinical practice, and public health. As a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), he has played a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals. His expertise spans various medical disciplines, and he is highly regarded for his contributions to medical research and innovation. Professor Sim has also been a strong advocate for improving healthcare access, especially in rural and underserved areas of Sarawak, where healthcare services have often been limited. His leadership extends beyond education and clinical work; he has been instrumental in advancing public health initiatives, particularly those focused on preventive care and healthcare infrastructure. Under his guidance, numerous projects aimed at enhancing the quality of healthcare services across Sarawak have been implemented, improving the health outcomes for communities statewide. Professor Sim's ongoing dedication to advancing healthcare has made him a key figure in shaping the future of healthcare in Sarawak and Malaysia.



**YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah
Wee Inn**

*Minister for Education, Innovation
and Talent Development Sarawak,
Malaysia*

YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee is a highly respected Malaysian entrepreneur and businessman, known for his significant contributions to education, innovation, and talent development in Sarawak. As the current Minister for Education, Innovation, and Talent Development in Sarawak (as of 2025), Dato Sri Roland has played a pivotal role in driving the state's growth in technology and digital sectors. He is committed to shaping Sarawak's future by positioning it as a leading hub for artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation in Malaysia by 2027.

Under his leadership, Dato Sri Roland has spearheaded initiatives to enhance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education across the state, with a particular focus on improving enrollment rates and creating opportunities for students in both urban and rural areas. His efforts have led to a rise in STEM participation, with over 50% of secondary school students in Sarawak enrolled in STEM streams by 2025. Dato Sri Roland is also dedicated to fostering a culture of lifelong learning, aiming to equip Sarawakians with the necessary skills to excel in the rapidly changing technological landscape. His vision includes promoting digital education and reducing the skills gap through initiatives like the iCPD programme, which enhances professional development and employability for the people of Sarawak.



Dr. Veronica Lughah

*Director,
Sarawak State Health Department,
Ministry of Health Malaysia, Malaysia*

Dr Veronica Lughah is the Director of Health for Sarawak, Malaysia, and a senior public health consultant with more than two decades of distinguished service in the Ministry of Health. She has served at various levels of the organisation — from clinic and hospital settings to district health offices, state administrations, and the national level — across four states: Sarawak, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, and finally in Putrajaya.

She has championed health equity, resilience, and system reform through initiatives addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases, preventive and promotive health, healthcare delivery transformation, healthcare workforce distribution, and health infrastructure development in Sarawak. She also advocates for stronger public-private partnerships to enhance service reach and sustainability.

As Chair of the Strategic Communications Working Group for Malaysia's Health White Paper 2023, she played a key role in advancing reforms in universal health coverage, sustainable and resilient health systems, strategic health financing, and multidisciplinary collaboration. Representing Malaysia in regional and World Health Organization platforms, she continues to advocate for sustainable, inclusive, and equitable health systems that ensure quality care for all.



Keynote and Plenary Speakers

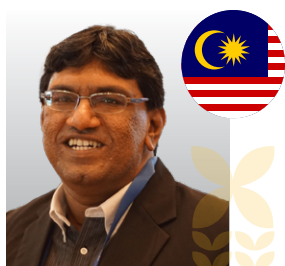


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Dr. Murallitharan Munisamy

*Director,
National Cancer Society of Malaysia
(NCSM), Malaysia*

Dr Murallitharan Munisamy is a Public Health Physician from Malaysia. He trained as a Medical Officer in the Russian Federation under a Malaysian government scholarship and completed a Master's in Community Health Sciences at the National University of Malaysia. He earned a PhD in Public Health from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, under the ASEAN Economic Community program. In 2015, he received the Chevening Scholarship from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, completing a term as a Fellow in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Before his medical career, Dr Murallitharan was an award-winning journalist for the New Straits Times, a leading English newspaper in Malaysia. In medicine, he has served in various roles, including medical officer and clinician at Hospital Kuala Lumpur and the National Blood Bank, clinical epidemiologist for the Clinical Research Centre, Ministry of Health, Malaysia, and Medical Director of MMPKV Healthcare Sdn Bhd. He is deeply involved with healthcare services for marginalized and underprivileged groups, working with organizations like the Tzu Chi Foundation, Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Malaysia, Divine Life Society of Malaysia, Assunta Hospital, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Dr Murallitharan's interests lie in public health, health systems, and health economics. He collaborates with Chulalongkorn University, the University of Tokyo, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the London School of Economics. He is currently the Medical Director of the National Cancer Society of Malaysia



Dr. Jerome Kim

*Director General,
International Vaccine Institute*

Jerome H. Kim, M.D., is an international expert on the development and evaluation of vaccines and is the Director General of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI). He has unparalleled experience and success in translating innovation to impact – working with key national and international stakeholders, creating a common understanding of the value proposition, developing and executing creative strategies for sustainable growth. At IVI he led and grew a team whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver safe, effective, and affordable vaccines for Global Health from a small Korea-based international organization to one with a global footprint and diverse and expanding funding. IVI's oral cholera vaccine is used around the world to prevent this deadly diarrheal disease. IVI's typhoid conjugate vaccine, tech-transferred to SK bioscience and PT BioFarma; both have received national approval, and the SK vaccine has been prequalified by WHO. Prior to joining IVI, he was the Program Manager for the US Army's Advanced Development Program for HIV vaccines and led the only HIV vaccine trial to show protection against infection (RV144), the identification of correlates from the trial, and analysis of viral sieve effects. He was also the Principal Deputy of the US Military HIV Research Program doing earlier stage R&D on HIV vaccines and the Chief, Laboratory of Molecular Virology and Pathogenesis, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Dr. Kim is a Distinguished Visiting Professor, Seoul National University; Adjunct Professor at the Uniformed Services University (USA) and the Graduate School of Public Health, Yonsei University; and is an Honorary Professor, University of Rwanda and the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Kim graduated from the University of Hawaii with High Honors in History and Highest Honors in Biology, winning the Arthur Lyman Dean Prize in the Humanities and the Library Prize in Pacific Islands Area Research. Dr. Kim received his M.D. from the Yale University School of Medicine and completed Internal Medicine Residency and Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. He has authored over 350 publications and has received numerous awards, including the John Maher Award for Research Excellence, USUHS, 2013; Department of the Army Research and Development Achievement Award for Technical Excellence, 2013; and the Medal of Honor for Civic Merit, Republic of Korea.



Prof. Tin Tin Su

*Director, Regional Hub for Asia
Climate Change & Health (REACH),
Director, South East Asia Community
Observatory (SEACO),
Professor (Global Population Health),
Jeffrey School of Medicine and Health
Sciences, Monash University Malaysia*

Professor Tin Tin Su is a public health physician, the director of the South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO) Health & Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) at Monash University Malaysia. She led a turning point of SEACO's research excellence on climate change, environment and health. She established a remarkable initiative named "Climate change and health impact monitoring through the eHealth at SEACO" (CHIMES) project, which introduced an innovative architecture to conduct cutting-edge climate change and health research. This initiative has now been leveraged into a Wellcome Trust-funded project on "Health effects of heat in South East Asia."

She plays a significant role in the global initiative of Climate Change and Health Evaluation and Response System (CHEERS). Leveraging her strong partnership with regional stakeholders and well-regarded contribution to climate change and health, she secured funding from the Canadian and UK governments to establish and lead Monash University's "Regional Hub for Asia Climate Change and Health (REACH)". The REACH aims to advance research that promotes climate literacy, empowers communities, strengthens health systems and supports vulnerable groups



Keynote and Plenary Speakers

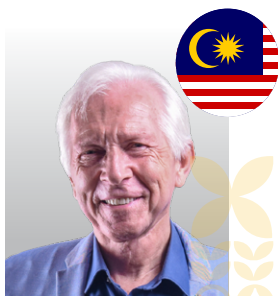


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Prof. Sibrandes Poppema
*President and Vice Chancellor,
Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia*

Professor Sibrandes Poppema is the President and Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University in Malaysia since January 2021. He studied Medicine at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He trained as a pathologist and holds a doctorate in Immunopathology from the University of Groningen. He held postdoc positions at the University of Kiel in Germany and Harvard University in the USA. He has widely published on subjects in immunology, haematology, oncology and transplantation and is among the top 2% cited authors in immunology. He held several leadership positions in healthcare and in education institutions, including as Director of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Alberta and later at the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) in the Netherlands. He was Dean of UMCG for 9 years and President of the University of Groningen for 10 years.

Sunway University is a private not for profit 14-year-young university and already top private university in ASEAN in several rankings. It is rapidly rising in global rankings with a #81 in the THE Impact ranking as the highlight.

Poppema's mission is for Sunway University to become a fifth-generation university with a focus on holistic education, employability, high-quality research, strong industry collaboration, sustainable development, planetary health and community service.



Dr. Swe Yin Khin Htun
*Senior Medical Education Fellow,
Medical Education Department, NUH
Honorary Associate Professor,
School of Medicine, UoN
Honorary Professor
Global Health Education, UMM
International Academic Advisor,
AIMST University, Malaysia
International Advisory Board Member
International Journal of
Transformative Health
Professions Education (IJTHPE),
University of Nottingham, United
Kingdom*

Dr Swe Yin Khin Htun is the Honorary Fellow from the Academy of Medical Educators (AoME), the highest accolade recognizing exceptional contributions to medical education on an international scale and also a Fellow from Faculty of Surgical Trainers, the Royal College of Surgeons (Edin).

She has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership in the field of medical education, with a series of notable accomplishments. Her contributions have been recognized both nationally and internationally, reflecting a high level of expertise and commitment.

Her innovation to merge technology with medical teaching has revolutionised the medical education world. Currently, her programs are the benchmark of quality service delivery and an example to other institutions. She, a visionary leader and a firm believer in high-standard education, has undoubtedly shaped the way medical training is done for the better, thus making her name synonymous with innovation and excellence in medical education and was awarded the "Best Medical Educator Award" from the NUH in 2020, "outstanding Contribution outside of NUH award in 2022" and nominated for best UG teaching award in 2024 and also the winner of 3 awards in 2024: 1) The significant contribution to ME award, 2) The excellent research and innovation award and 3) The outstanding contribution outside NUH award."



Hon. Prof. (FH) Dr. Petra Heidler
*Lecturer
Institute International Business and
Economics, IMC Krems, University of
Applied Sciences, Austria*

Petra Heidler operates as a hypnosis psychotherapist in private practice in Austria. She pursued studies in social and economic sciences, inclusive and special education, health service management, and public health and served as an HR professional and head of personnel for Austria, the GAS region and Central Europe in worldwide organizations within the healthcare and NGO sectors.

For about 20 years, Petra Heidler has been a lecturer at universities and universities of applied sciences, a speaker both domestically and abroad, an advisor to businesses, a member of ethics committees, and a researcher in fields like mental health, psyche and wounds, migraines, and burnout. She values networking, mentoring young scholars, and fostering connections among business, science, research, and individuals.



Keynote and Plenary Speakers



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Prof. Gary Tse

Professor and Head, Department of Population Health, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hong Kong, China.

Distinguished Chair Professor, Tianjin Institute of Cardiology, Second Hospital of Tianjin Medical University Tianjin China

Prof. Gary Tse matriculated at Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge in 2005 to read pre-clinical medicine. He subsequently completed his clinical training at Imperial College London, as well as PhD and MD from the University of Cambridge. He is Associate Dean (Innovations and Research) at the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU). He is also a Professor at the Department of Cardiology, Second Hospital of Tianjin Medical University, China and a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey. Prior to joining HKMU, Prof. Tse held a joint position as Clinical Reader at the University of Kent (with permanent appointment until the retirement age) and Honorary Public Health Consultant at the Medway Council in local government, UK. He serves as a Nucleus Committee Member of the Population Health Section, European Association of Preventive Cardiology. He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, Royal College of Pathologists and Royal College of Physicians, and an elected Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (Class II: Medicine). He has been listed on the World's Top 2% Scientists Released by Stanford University for the Cardiovascular System & Hematology subfield since 2020 and is ranked 26th on the Top Cardiovascular Researchers from China in 2023. He has an H-index of 66 and has obtained more than HK\$200 million research-related funding. He leads the Hong Kong Risk Modelling Team focusing on the use of big data and artificial intelligence for the development of predictive models for estimating biological age and risk prediction of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.



Dr. Cynthia Chen Huijun

Assistant Professor, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University, Singapore

Dr Cynthia Chen is Assistant Professor at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore. Her research focuses on the economics of ageing, healthcare financing, and health system innovation, with the overarching aim of promoting sustainable, equitable, and age-ready health systems. She has led numerous large-scale health economic evaluations and simulation studies, most notably the Singapore Future Elderly Model, a microsimulation platform projecting chronic disease burden, health-care spending, long-term care demand, and the impact of preventive health interventions. Her work often integrates real-world data, health technology assessment methods, and advanced econometric modelling to provide actionable insights for policy and resource allocation.

Dr Chen collaborates extensively with the Ministry of Health and other agencies, generating economic evidence to guide policy design and programme implementation. This includes evaluations of nationwide initiatives and value-based care pilots. Her research also examines reimbursement strategies for high-priced therapies in Singapore and the region, addressing health equity and financing challenges. Internationally, she contributes to the global public health community, serving as an Editorial Board Member for Nature Communications Medicine and Academic Editor for PLOS Global Public Health. Her publications appear in leading journals and have been cited in parliamentary debates and major media outlets. She also teaches courses in public health economics and applied health econometrics, mentoring graduate and doctoral students to bridge the gap between evidence generation and policy impact.



Prof. Tan Maw Pin

Head, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Malaysia

Dr Tan Maw Pin is a Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Universiti Malaya. After completing her undergraduate medical training at the University of Nottingham and her core medical training at Nottingham City Hospital, Prof Tan obtained a National Training Number in Geriatric Medicine at Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, where she also undertook two years of full-time research training at the Institute of Ageing and Health, Newcastle University. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia Long-Term Research Grant Scheme funded project, TrAnsforming CoGnitive Frailty into Later-life Self-Sufficiency (AGELESS), and is the immediate past President of the Malaysian Society of Geriatric Medicine. She was a founder member of the Malaysian Falls Prevention Network (MyFalls) and Asian Falls Network, and is a core committee member of the newly founded World Falls Prevention Society. Prof Tan chairs the Malaysian Influenza Working Group which has successfully lobbied for government-funded influenza vaccination in older adults in Malaysia. She is also the organizing chair for the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Asia Oceania Regional Congress 2028 which will be held in Kuala Lumpur.



Keynote and Plenary Speakers



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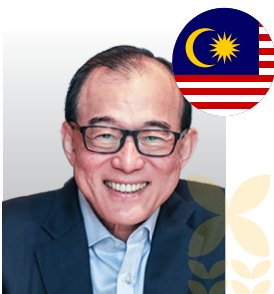
Dr. Sandra Barteit

Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), Heidelberg University, Germany

Dr. Sandra Barteit leads the Digital Global Health research group at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Heidelberg University Hospital. She holds a Dr.sc.hum. in Global Health from Heidelberg University, a M.Sc. in Analytics (Computational Data Analytics) from Georgia Tech (Georgia, USA), a M.Sc. in Master's degrees in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from HEC (Paris, France) and a M.A. in Computational Linguistics from Heidelberg University. She is currently pursuing a Habilitation in Global Health, and a M.Sc. in Mental Health and Neuroscience (King's College London).

Her research lies at the intersection of digitalization, AI, and precision public health, focusing on how data-driven systems can shift healthcare from reactive to preventive. She integrates wearable, environmental, and health data to study the impacts of climate change on health and to develop AI-based early-warning systems for diseases such as malaria and cardiovascular or respiratory illnesses.

Her Carl Zeiss Stiftung NEXUS project (PULSE-AI) extends this work by using graph databases, multimodal data integration, and explainable AI to connect data from sensors, climate models, and health systems across Africa and Asia. The project aims to identify patterns of vulnerability and resilience at both individual and community levels, supporting precision public health interventions. PULSE-AI not only advances the methodological frontier of global health data science but also contributes to building climate-resilient and equitable health systems that can learn, adapt, and respond to emerging risks.



Ar. Teo Ah Khing

Founder & Chairman, Imasa Dinasti Sdn Bhd Sarawak, Malaysia

Ar. Teo Ah Khing is a globally respected architect, master planner and visionary entrepreneur whose career spans more than three decades. Born in Kuching and raised in Miri, Sarawak, Ar. Teo is a proud Sarawakian who has left an indelible mark internationally on the built environment, while continuing to drive progressive development at home.

Armed with a Master's in Urban Design from Harvard University and an Honours Degree in Architecture from the University of New South Wales, Ar. Teo leads with a rare blend of design innovation, strategic foresight, and business acumen. As Founder and Chairman of Imasa Dinasti Sdn Bhd and the broader TAK Group of Companies, he has delivered a portfolio of award-winning, high-impact projects across Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

Among his most notable masterplans are the Meydan Grandstand, Palm Deira and City Masterplan in Dubai, General Headquarters Complex and Bahria Town in Pakistan, and the "Pearl of the Caribbean" integrated development in St Lucia. Closer to home, Ar. Teo played a key role in shaping the Putrajaya Federal Government Administrative Centre, where his team was entrusted to strengthen and refine its masterplan and the award-winning Miri City Fan remains close to his heart to this day.

Today, Ar. Teo is the driving force behind Kenyalang Smart City (KSC) - a flagship urban development in Miri that redefines smart, sustainable living. As one of Malaysia's most ambitious purpose-built smart cities, KSC blends digital integration, green design, and local character to create an inclusive, future-ready urban ecosystem. Under Imasa Dinasti's leadership, it stands as a model for intergenerational urban development rooted in Sarawak's growth story.

In addition to his work in architecture and planning, Ar. Teo is also renowned in the global thoroughbred racing world as Chairman of the China Horse Club. A passionate philanthropist, his companies have channeled over USD50 million towards scholarships and charitable causes since 1993. Ar. Teo continues to lead with vision, purpose and a deep commitment to community-building and nation advancement.



Dr. Noor Izni Binti Mohamed Shapie

Public Health Medicine Specialist, Head of Family Health Development Sector, Miri Divisional Health Office, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

Dr. Noor Izni Binti Mohamed Shapie is a Public Health Medicine Specialist at Miri Divisional Health Office, Ministry of Health Malaysia, with over 10 years of experience in public health. Her areas of expertise include adolescent health, primary health care, maternal and child health, and school health programmes. She obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) from the International Medical University (IMU), followed by a Master of Public Health (MPH) and a Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) from Universiti Malaya (UM).

Throughout her career, Dr. Noor Izni has been actively engaged in developing and implementing community-based initiatives to improve the health and well-being of the community especially adolescents. She has organized health carnivals and outreach programmes targeting teenagers in Miri, integrating health education, preventive services, and interactive activities. These programmes have successfully increased awareness on key health issues, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, healthy coping strategies, while fostering community participation and intersectoral collaboration.

As an advocate for adolescent sexual and reproductive health education, she frequently conducts workshops, talks, and awareness campaigns for adolescents, parents, and educators. Her approach emphasizes creating safe and supportive environments for young people to discuss sensitive topics, while ensuring they receive accurate, evidence-based information to make informed decisions and adopt healthier lifestyles. By combining mental health awareness with sexual and reproductive health education, she promotes a holistic approach to adolescent development.

In addition to her contributions to adolescent health, Dr. Noor Izni has played an important role in strengthening primary healthcare services and school health programmes, with a focus on promoting health equity and accessibility. She also mentors junior colleagues and medical students, sharing her expertise to cultivate future leaders in public health.

With her dedication and vision, Dr. Noor Izni continues to champion adolescent health as a public health priority, working towards building healthier and more resilient youth populations in Malaysia.



Keynote and Plenary Speakers

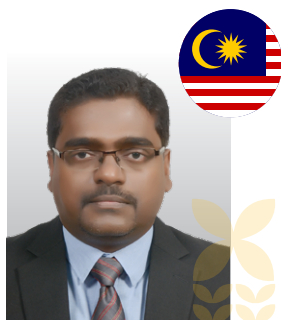


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Dr P. Raviwharmman Packierisamy

*Public Health Medicine Specialist,
Miri Division Health Officer,
Sarawak Health Department,
Ministry Of Health, Malaysia*

Dr. P. Raviwharmman Packierisamy is a Public Health Medicine Specialist and the current Miri Division Health Officer in Sarawak, Malaysia. He obtained his MBBS from Melaka Manipal Medical College in 2004, followed by a Master of Public Health (2010) and Doctor of Public Health (2017) from the University of Malaya. He is also a graduate of Malaysia Epidemiological Intelligence Program (Field Epidemiology Training Program).

He has over 20 years of experience in clinical and public health medicine, beginning his career as a Medical Officer at Hospital Teluk Intan, Perak before transitioning into public health medicine practice. He has served as Epidemiology Officer in both Perak and Sarawak and, since 2020, has led the Miri Division Health Office, overseeing disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, crisis preparedness, and public health service delivery.

His scholarly work encompasses vector control, tuberculosis, measles, typhoid, and food- and waterborne diseases. He has presented at regional and international conferences, with several publications in indexed journals. He has also contributed to national technical committees on infectious disease surveillance, TB screening, malaria elimination, and disaster preparedness.

His contributions have earned him multiple Ministry of Health Excellence Service Awards (2008, 2016, 2020) and the Sarawak State Government Pegawai Bintang Kenyalang (P.B.K) Award in 2022. He actively mentors' postgraduate public health trainees, serves as adjunct lecturer and supervisor, and contributes to various professional and community health organizations. His special interest includes field epidemiology, outbreak investigations, crisis preparedness and disaster response, health economics, and strategic public health facilities planning.



Dr. Kathleen Chim

*Associate Director and Head of Division
of Behavioural Science and Built
Environment, Li Ka Shing School of
Professional and Continuing Education,
Hong Kong Metropolitan University,
Hongkong, People's Republic of China*

Dr. Kathleen Chim is Programme Director and Associate Head of the Division of Health at Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Li Ka Shing School of Continuing and Professional Education (HKMU LiPACE). Prior to becoming an educator, Kathleen was working as a practitioner in the UK, providing evidence-based psychosocial interventions to individuals with substance use and mental health issues in community and prison settings. Her passion lies in understanding the positive aspects of psychological trauma and using her combined experiences to help students cultivate agency and reach their untapped potential for life-long development and growth. Kathleen received her BSc in Psychology from Royal Holloway, her MSc in Public Health and Substance Misuse from King's College London, and her PhD in Psychology from University of Salford.

She is also registered with the British Psychological Society (BPS) as a Chartered Psychologist (Division of Academics, Researchers, and Teachers in Psychology). Her research interests include the positive personal changes or transformations (i.e. posttraumatic growth) resulting from the struggles of highly challenging circumstances, the stress-buffering effects of social support, and the role of sociocultural contexts in psychological trauma and posttraumatic growth among higher education students.

Since joining HKMU LiPACE, Kathleen has led initiatives and projects in collaboration with community partners to bridge research and practice, focusing on the socio-emotional aspects of learning, positive life transitions, mental wellbeing, and empowering students to become better prepared for an increasingly dynamic future.



Dr. Liza Diniarizky Putri

*Associate Professor,
Communications Science,
Serang Raya University, Indonesia*

Liza is an academic and researcher in the Department of Communication Studies at Serang Raya University, Indonesia, and an active public relations practitioner. She earned her bachelor's degree from Gadjah Mada University, continued her master's studies in Social Welfare at the University of Indonesia and Communication at Pelita Harapan University, and earned her doctorate in Communication Studies from Padjadjaran University. This multidisciplinary background has shaped her deep interest in community-based issues, particularly social change communication and health communication.

Her research interests focus on health literacy, social communication, and communication strategies in indigenous communities and vulnerable groups. Her work has been published in reputable international journals, and she has received various research grants, including a global grant from Dalberg UK related to heat stroke literacy among Indonesian farmers and a Diktisaintek grant for research on eco-social literacy in the Baduy indigenous community.

In addition to her academic role, Liza is often invited to speak at forums on strategic communication, public relations, community literacy, and women's empowerment. The combination of her roles as an academic, researcher, and practitioner has enabled her to consistently build bridges between science, public relations practice, and community service.



Keynote and Plenary Speakers



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Assoc. Prof Huijun (June) Chih

*School of Population Health and
Clinical Trials Enabling Platform,
Curtin University, Australia*

Associate Professor Huijun (June) Chih, PhD works at the School of Population Health and Clinical Trials Enabling Platform at Curtin University, Australia. As a teaching and research academic, course coordinator, biostatistician with expertise in designing clinical studies and analysing data using routine and complex statistical models, Jun designs curriculum, teaches quantitative research methods, supervises research students, mentors young academics and clinicians, and provides statistical consultations to multi-disciplinary research teams across public and private hospitals, clinics and research centres nationally and internationally. In her role as a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructor and Wellbeing Champion, she delivers MHFA training to university students and collaborates with colleagues across universities on student wellbeing projects. Jun has been awarded several teaching excellence awards and is a Fellow of the Curtin Academy and a Senior Fellow of the Advanced Higher Education (UK). She has published >90 peer-reviewed articles and been awarded >AUD\$6million research funding.



Dr. Sheena Ramazanu

*Visiting Assistant Professor,
Serang Raya University, Indonesia,
Dalberg Climate Health Public
Engagement Leadership Fellow,
Facts Emerging Leaders Fellow
[Climate Action & Technology]
(Incoming)*

Sheena is a healthcare professional (Registered Nurse, Singapore) with a strong commitment to advancing education, health equity, and policy innovation. She is an incoming Expert in Residence at the Harpswell Foundation in Cambodia, where she will focus on enabling access to education and healthcare in remote communities. Sheena is also an incoming fellow at FACTS (Think Tank), where her work will center on policy issues spanning future trends, ASEAN affairs, technology, security, and current global challenges. Sheena holds an honorary visiting researcher position at the National University of Singapore's School of Public Health. As a Global Leadership Nursing Institute (GLNI) Scholar at the International Council of Nurses in Geneva, she is poised to contribute to global health leadership and advocacy.

Her research interests include the intersections of climate action and health, health equity, leadership, public policy, and social entrepreneurship. Passionate about fostering meaningful change, Sheena combines academic rigor with practical engagement to address pressing societal issues.

Outside of her professional endeavours, she enjoys travelling to connect with diverse communities and gain insights into the world through multiple perspectives.



Dr. Ing. Farid Wajdi

*Assistant Professor,
Department of Industrial Engineering,
Serang Raya University, Indonesia*

Farid is a faculty member in the Department of Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Serang Raya (UNSERA), Indonesia. He has academic and professional experience in product design, health innovation, and additive manufacturing (3D printing). His research and teaching interests emphasize ergonomics, sustainable product development, and the application of advanced manufacturing technologies to improve healthcare and community well-being.

He currently serves as Chairperson of the Institute for Research and Community Engagement (LPPM) UNSERA, where he played a central role in facilitating faculty involvement in research and community service. In this role, he is responsible for strengthening applied research collaborations and supporting initiatives that link academic knowledge with real-world challenges.

He also oversees annual student community service programs (KKM), focusing on economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and public health. These programs aim to build community capacity while fostering student learning through direct engagement with society.

With his expertise in industrial engineering, design, and innovation, he continues to contribute to advancing research, teaching, and community engagement, while promoting initiatives that support sustainable development and improve quality of life.



Keynote and Plenary Speakers



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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Janie Ling Chin

*Associate Professor,
Department of Engineering,
Durham University, UK.*

Dr. Janie Ling Chin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Engineering at Durham University, UK. Since completing her PhD in 2016 on life cycle assessment (LCA) of conventional, retrofit and advanced power systems for cargo ships, she has built an extensive portfolio in sustainability, energy systems integration, hydrogen technology and thermal management.

Janie co-leads numerous high-profile research projects funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Department for Transport, Research England, the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat), Innovate UK, the European Commission, and industry. These include the UK National Clean Maritime Research Hub (£30.3m), Growing Teesside's Hydrogen Economy and Catalysing a Just Transition to Net Zero (£11.1m), Demonstration of a Digitised Energy System Integration across Sectors Enhancing Flexibility and Resilience towards an Efficient, Sustainable, Cost-optimised, Affordable, Secure and Stable Energy Supply (also referred to as ELEXIA, ~£10m), PyroPlas: Transforming Sewage Sludge to Sustainable Transport Fuels and Materials (£8.19m), the Ayrton Challenge Programme on Sustainable Cooling Infrastructure for Fisheries in Indonesia (£2.85m), and other decarbonisation initiatives.

She leads the sustainability research in the ELEXIA project, which forms the focus of her plenary presentation at Globesync. Drawing on LCA and energy systems analysis, her work offers insights into current practices and translates research into actionable strategies for real-world decarbonisation plans. Janie also advises the United Nations as a member of the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) WG46 on the Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Intensity of Marine Fuels.



Dr. Armstrong Ighodalo Omoregie

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Centre of Borneo Regionalism
and Conservation,
School of Built Environment,
University of Technology
Sarawak (UTS), Malaysia*

Dr. Armstrong Ighodalo Omoregie is a microbiologist and environmental scientist whose work bridges microbial biotechnology and sustainable environmental engineering. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Centre of Borneo Regionalism and Conservation, School of Built Environment, University of Technology Sarawak (UTS), Malaysia. His research focuses on microbially induced carbonate precipitation (MICP), biocementation, heavy metal bioremediation, and advanced wastewater treatment technologies. Dr Omoregie has led or co-led numerous funded research projects in Malaysia and abroad, in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Université Le Havre Normandie (France), and Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (China). His work with ureolytic bacteria and biogenic processes has been applied in building restoration, slope stabilization, landfill leachate treatment, and greywater remediation. His research has been supported by grants from Yayasan Sarawak, the MyTiger Initiative (Embassy of France), and the Kurita Water and Environment Foundation (Japan).

His PhD at Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, focused on scaling up the production of *Sporosarcina pasteurii* using low-cost reagents and a custom-built 3000 L reactor to enable cost-effective biocementation at field scale. His earlier MSc research explored the microbial biodiversity of Sarawak's limestone caves, identifying native urease-producing bacteria for green construction materials based on MICP. Dr Omoregie has authored over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. He is active in the development and teaching of bibliometric methods, regularly conducting workshops on research trend analysis using Scopus, VOSviewer, and AI-enhanced tools. He also supervises postgraduate students and serves on research committees at UTS. He holds a BSc (Biotechnology), MSc (By Research), and PhD in Biology from Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. He is a life member of the Asian Federation of Biotechnology (Malaysia Chapter), a Graduate Technologist with the Malaysia Board of Technologists, and a member of the Hong Kong Chemical, Biological & Environmental Engineering Society.



Kimberly Kupresan

*Citizen Liaison Volunteer
(CLV), Sarawak, Malaysia
United States Embassy,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Kimberly Kupresan is an American expat based in Miri, Sarawak, specializing in community development, health systems, and storytelling. With over a decade of experience in U.S. healthcare, she leads Carecombo, LLC—a dynamic consulting platform that partners with governments, NGOs, and institutions to design community-centred systems.

As both consultant and storyteller, Kimberly embraces the philosophy of “looking for the world in a grain of sand,” showing how complex ideas can be understood through the everyday stories of individuals and cultures. Her work focuses on amplifying these voices by forging strategic community partnerships that align mission, political capital, and financial resources—driving lasting impact through resilient infrastructure and culturally responsive solutions.

Her leadership includes founding a paediatric health department for 100,000 students in New Orleans, one of America's most culturally rich and complex cities. Over three years, she helped secure \$20 million (USD) in funding and mobilized up to 100 specialists to address medical and mental health needs in schools. She also designed a region-wide COVID-19 support system for 3,000 schools and educators. These initiatives were powered by cultural ambassadors, multidisciplinary collaborators, and relatable stories that united a wide matrix of stakeholders. Her clinical and volunteer background—2,500 hours of direct patient care and board service for a French-immersion charter school—further informed this work.

Beyond consulting, Kimberly explores identity and cultural pluralism through writing and film. Current projects include a documentary on Sarawakian Indigenous art for international audiences, as well as publishing insights on healthcare models that integrate cultural authorities and multidisciplinary collaboration.



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Ms. Brilynn Zhang

*Brand Director,
Roffe International,
Singapore*

Ms Brilynn Zhang is an accomplished leader whose career in branding, healthcare marketing, and medical technology spans over two decades. As Brand Director of Roffe International, she has driven the company's reputation as a pioneer in AI-powered medical devices and patient-centric innovation. Her leadership blends healthcare expertise, strategic storytelling, and a deep commitment to social impact.

Brilynn is recognized for translating complex medical technologies into compelling brand narratives that resonate with clinicians, patients, and the public. Her fluency in regulatory frameworks, digital health ecosystems, and patient needs enables her to create brands that are credible, compliant, and transformative. At Roffe, she has shaped the company's identity as a trusted innovator in medical devices and AI healthcare. Guided by data and grounded in foresight, her strategies reflect a vision where technology, humanity, and business align to deliver accessible healthcare. With experience in market localization, she has launched diagnostic tools, wearables, and home-based care solutions across Singapore, Malaysia, and India. By engaging ministries of health, hospitals, and NGOs, she has strengthened public-private healthcare collaboration.

Brilynn's talent lies in humanizing technology. From enabling early diabetes detection with continuous glucose monitors to supporting elderly care through AI-powered diagnostics, she communicates innovation through empathy and real-world outcomes. A cross-functional leader, she collaborates with R&D, legal, and healthcare professionals to ensure unified, compliant, and impactful brand messaging. Her achievements include leading Roffe's brand rollout across eight markets in 24 months, building multi-stakeholder partnerships, and elevating the company's visibility as a socially responsible MedTech brand. She has also designed branding frameworks linking storytelling to improved health outcomes, such as early screening and patient self-monitoring.

As a sought-after speaker and mentor, Brilynn inspires with insights on branding, AI in healthcare, and women's leadership in MedTech—shaping a future where technology and compassion walk hand-in-hand.



Globesync Catalyst Award 2025 Recipients

Globesync Catalyst Award

The Globesync Catalyst Award honors individuals, teams, or organizations that have acted as transformative agents in their respective fields, catalyzing meaningful change through research, innovation, advocacy, or implementation. Originally rooted in public health domain, the award is open to all disciplines—including education, technology, environmental sciences, arts, business, and indigenous studies—reflecting Globesync's commitment to transdisciplinary collaboration and sustainable action.

YB Datuk Amar Professor Dr. Sim Kui Hian

Deputy Premier

Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak

For his transformative vision and exemplary leadership in advancing public health, sustainability, and community well-being for future generations.

YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn

Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak

For his visionary leadership and dedication to advancing education, innovation, and talent development in shaping a sustainable future for Sarawak and beyond.

Dr. Veronica Lughah

Director, Sarawak State Health Department

For her outstanding leadership and commitment to strengthening public health systems, promoting community well-being.

Dr. Jerome H. Kim

Director General, International Vaccine Institute Seoul, South Korea

For his visionary leadership and global contribution to vaccine innovation, equity, and public health advancement.

Dr. Murallitharan Munisamy

Director, National Cancer Society Malaysia

For his exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to cancer prevention, advocacy, and community health advancement across Malaysia and beyond.

Ar. Teo Ah Khing

Chairman, TAK Group of Companies

For his visionary leadership and outstanding contributions to sustainable architecture, innovation, and community development in Malaysia and beyond.

Professor Dr. Antonio Giordano

President, Sbarro Health Research Organization

Professor, Temple University and the University of Siena

For his outstanding contributions to cancer research, biomedical innovation, and global health advancement through transformative scientific leadership.

Petroleum Sarawak Berhad (PETROS)

In recognition of its strategic leadership and impactful contributions to advancing sustainable energy development, industry innovation, community partnerships, and long-term economic growth for Sarawak and beyond.

South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO), Monash University Malaysia

For exceptional leadership and innovation in community-engaged population health, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and interdisciplinary collaboration toward a healthier, more equitable future.

Rotary District 3300 Malaysia

District Action Group on Autism (DAGA)

For their unwavering dedication to promoting inclusivity, raising autism awareness, and empowering communities through advocacy and service across Malaysia.

Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA)

For its remarkable commitment to preserving cultural heritage, empowering Indigenous communities, and promoting social unity towards a sustainable and inclusive future.

Sunway Centre for Planetary Health Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur

For its exceptional leadership and innovation in advancing planetary health, sustainability, and interdisciplinary collaboration for a healthier, resilient future.

Professor Dr. Soe Soe Aye

For her lifelong dedication to education and mentorship, inspiring generations through excellence and leadership.



Curtin Malaysia Campus Map



Eastwood Valley Golf and Country Club, Miri Map





Conference at a Glance



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

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Date & Time	Venue	Program	Remarks
3 Dec 2025 Wednesday	Curtin University Malaysia <i>Room 205, Skylark 3</i>	Bibliometric Analysis Workshop	Attire: Smart casual
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	<i>Directions: Please look for the Skylark 3 building on the map. In the building, go to the first floor. If taking the lift, please select "1" instead of "2".</i>		<i>Please bring your own laptop and download VOSviewer. (If you have any issues downloading it, we will assist you during the workshop.)</i>
4 Dec 2025 Thursday	Curtin University Malaysia <i>The Auditorium, Falcon 4</i>	Conference Main Event	Attire: Formal
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	<i>Directions: Please look for the Falcon 4 building on the map. The auditorium is on the ground floor, opposite the library.</i>		<i>For physical attendees, please register at the registration counter outside the auditorium and kindly collect and wear your conference lanyard.</i>
5 Dec 2025 Friday	Eastwood Valley Golf & Country Club <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Conference Main Event	Attire: Formal
7:30 aM – 5:00 PM	<i>Directions: Take the staircase near the main lobby entrance to the first floor.</i>		<i>For physical attendees, please register at the registration counter outside the ballroom and kindly wear your conference lanyard.</i>
5 Dec 2025 Friday	Eastwood Valley Golf & Country Club <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Gala Dinner	Attire: Formal
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	<i>Directions: Take the staircase near the main lobby entrance to the first floor.</i>		<i>Dress code: Black Tie & Evening Dress</i>



Pre-Conference Workshops



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3-5 DECEMBER 2025

DAY 1: 3 December 2025 (Wednesday) | Venue: Skylark 3 (SK3-205), Curtin University Malaysia

Time	Programme
8:00-8:30	Registration & Morning Refreshment
Pre-Conference Workshop: Bibliometrics Analysis via VOSviewer and Scientific Databases Workshop	
08:30 – 09:00	Pre-Conference Welcome & Briefing Welcome Remarks by <i>Professor Dr. Roy Rillera Marzo</i> <i>Chairman of GlobeCoReS 2025 and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia</i>
09:00 – 12:30	Morning Workshop (Interactive Session): - Topic 1: Introduction to Bibliometrics via Scopus <i>This session introduces the foundations of bibliometric analysis, including key indicators such as publication count, citation metrics, and the h-index. Participants will learn how to develop search strategies in Scopus, retrieve relevant publication data, and explore research trends across disciplines.</i> - Topic 2: Introduction to VOSviewer for Visualising Research Landscapes <i>This session introduces the basic functions of VOSviewer and how to use it to visualise research patterns. Participants will be guided through importing Scopus data, generating network maps, and exploring different layout types to identify research clusters, influential authors, and emerging topics.</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Networking Lunch / Zuhur Prayer
14:00 – 16:00	Afternoon Workshop (Collaborative Session): - Topic 3: Practical Bibliometric Mapping using VOSviewer <i>This session covers four key types of bibliometric analysis: co-authorship, co-occurrence, co-citation, and bibliographic coupling. Using pre-prepared datasets, participants will explore how to generate and interpret different map types to uncover collaboration patterns, thematic structures, and knowledge flows in the literature.</i> - Topic 4: Interpreting and Applying Bibliometric Insights <i>This session guides participants through reading and refining bibliometric maps, including adjusting visual elements and filtering data for relevance. It focuses on how to draw meaningful conclusions from the maps and apply insights to literature reviews, publication planning, research networking, and strategic decision-making.</i>
16:00 – 18:00	- Real Action Research Collaboration & Networking Opportunities - High Tea

Pre-Conference Workshop Overview

Title	Bibliometric Analysis for Research Visibility: Scopus & VOSviewer Essentials
Date & Time	3 December 2025 Wednesday 08:00 – 18:00
Speaker, Trainer and Facilitator	Speaker & Trainer: Dr. Armstrong Ighodalo Omoregie <i>Borneo Regionalism and Conservation, School of Built Environment, University of Technology Sarawak, Malaysia</i> Professor Roy Rillera Marzo <i>Chairman of GlobeCoReS 2025 and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia</i> Dr. Hana Chen <i>Chair, Learning & Teaching, Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia</i> Facilitator: Mdm Valerie Anak Velina Nagreg <i>Head of Department of General Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia</i>
Description	This hands-on workshop introduces participants to the fundamentals of bibliometric analysis using Scopus and VOSviewer. Designed for researchers across disciplines, the session covers key bibliometric indicators and tools for mapping research output, collaboration networks, and thematic trends. Participants will engage in guided exercises using pre-prepared datasets and learn to conduct four core types of bibliometric analysis: co-authorship, co-occurrence, co-citation, and bibliographic coupling. The workshop supports researchers in using bibliometric insights to inform publication strategies, enhance research visibility, and plan collaborative projects.
Scope and Aims	- Introduce the principles and practical applications of bibliometric analysis in academic research. - Equip participants with the skills to search, extract, and prepare bibliometric data using Scopus. Train participants to use VOSviewer for creating and interpreting visual maps of research networks and trends. - Demonstrate four key types of bibliometric analysis: co-authorship, co-occurrence, co-citation, and bibliographic coupling. - Encourage use of bibliometric tools to support strategic publishing, literature reviews, and evidence-based research planning.



Main Conference Timetable



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

3-5 DECEMBER 2025

DAY 2: 4 December 2025 (Thursday) | Venue: The Auditorium, Curtin University Malaysia

Time	Programme
7:30-8:30	Registration & Morning Refreshment
Subtheme 1: Advancing Science to Sustainable Action for an Equitable and Age-Inclusive Future	
08:30 – 08:50	Plenary Talk 1: Validation and Recalibration of PowerAI-CVD Predictive Risk Model From ASEAN Investigators: A Multi-Centre Cohort Study • Speaker: Professor Gary Tse, Professor and Head, Department of Population Health, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hong Kong, China Distinguished Chair Professor, Tianjin Institute of Cardiology, Second Hospital of Tianjin Medical University Tianjin China
08:50 – 09:10	Plenary Talk 2: Designing Communities for Longevity: Health, Equity, and Social Connection • Speaker: Dr. Cynthia Chen Huijun, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (Primary), National University Singapore, Republic of Singapore
09:10 – 09:30	Plenary Talk 3: Transforming Cognitive Frailty into Later-Life Self-Sufficiency • Speaker: Professor Tan Maw Pin, Head, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya
09:30 – 09:50	Plenary Talk 4: Climate Change and Healthy Ageing • Speaker: Professor Tin Tin Su, Director of the South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO) Health & Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) and Director of Regional Hub for Asia Climate Change and Health (REACH), Monash University, Malaysia
09:50 – 10:10	Plenary Talk 5: Driving Sustainable Action In Healthcare: What Are We Doing And Need To Continue Doing? • Speaker: Dr. Murallitharan Munisamy, Director, National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM)
10:10 – 10:30	Tea Break
10:30 – 12:30	Conference Opening • Keynote Address 1: Sarawak's Story: Catalysing Resilience and Health Equity in the Digital and Ageing World by Dr. Veronica Lughah, Director of Sarawak State Health Department, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Malaysia • Launching of Podcast Launch – GlobeSync Podcast: The Circle of Care — Weaving Health Across Generations • Launching of Scholarly Book Publications on Sustainability, Health, and Ageing • Launching of 1st Global Symposium on Ageing and Longevity (GSAL 2025) • Exchange of Memorandum of Understanding Conference Inauguration • Arrival of VIPs, MC Opening, Singing of the National Anthem “Negaraku” & Sarawak Anthem and Recital of Doa • Welcome Speech by Professor Dr. Roy Rillera Marzo, Chairman of GlobeCoReS 2025 and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University Malaysia • Opening Speech by Professor Dr. Vincent Lee Chieng Chen, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University Malaysia • Keynote Address 2: Seeds of Change: Education as the Root of Sarawak's Sustainable Future by YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn, Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak, Malaysia • Officiation of GlobeCoReS 2025 • Token of Appreciation to Guest of Honour • Conference Group Photo Session • GlobeCoReS 2025 Booth & SDG Competition Tour
12:30 – 13:20	Networking Lunch / Zuhr Prayer
Subtheme 2: Partnership, Capacity Building, and Community Engagement for a Future-Ready Health System	
13:20 – 13:40	Plenary Talk 6: Field Epidemiology: Outbreak Investigations & Response at Rural Ulu Baram, Sarawak • Speaker: Dr. P. Raviwharmman Packierisamy, Director of Miri Division Health Office, Ministry of Health Malaysia
13:40 – 14:00	Plenary Talk 7: Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborative Initiative for Community-Engaged Research – The Adolescent Health Carnival 2025 • Speaker: Dr. Noor Izni Mohamed Shapie, Chief of Family Health Development Unit, Miri Division Health Office, Ministry of Health Malaysia
14:00 – 14:20	Plenary Talk 8: From Story to System: Designing the Future of Care • Speaker: Ms. Kimberly Kupresan, Citizen Liaison Volunteer (CLV), Malaysia United States Embassy
14:30 – 18:00	Parallel Sessions



Main Conference Timetable



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

3-5 DECEMBER 2025

DAY 3: 5 December 2025 (Friday) | Venue: Grand Ballroom Eastwood Valley Golf & Country Club

Time	Programme
7:30-8:30	Registration
Subtheme 3: Drivers of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda	
08:30 – 08:50	Keynote Address 3: Sunway University as A Prototype Mission Driven 5th Generation University: Incorporating Holistic Education, Relevant Research, Entrepreneurship, Industry Collaboration, Sustainable Development, Planetary Health and Societal Development. • Speaker: Professor Sibrand Poppema , President and Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University
08:50 – 09:10	Plenary Talk 9: Designing and Delivery of the Undergraduate Medical Education in the Conflict Areas • Speaker: Dr. Swe Yin Khin Htun , University of Nottingham, United Kingdom
09:10 – 09:30	Plenary Talk 10: Empowering Future-Ready Students: Crafting a Sustainable Total Learning Experience through School-Community Partnerships • Speaker: Dr. Kathleen Chim , Associate Director and Head of Division of Behavioural Science and Built Environment, Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hongkong, People's Republic of China
09:30 – 09:50	Plenary Talk 11: Precision Public Health for Climate-Related Health Risks in Asia • Speaker: Dr. Sandra Barteit , Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), Heidelberg University, Germany
09:50 – 10:10	Plenary Talk 12: Educating and Growing Seeds of Mental Wellbeing • Speaker: Dr. Huijun Chih , Associate Professor, Curtin School of Population Health, Curtin University, Australia
10:10 – 10:30	Tea Break
Subtheme 4: Aligning Research, Policy, and Practice for Sustainable Health, Society, and Environment	
10:30 – 10:50	Keynote Address 4: Innovation, Vaccines, and Good Health: Improving “Healthspan” or Healthy Life Expectancy Through Vaccination Speaker: Dr. Jerome Kim , Director General, International Vaccine Institute, Republic of Korea
10:50 – 11:10	Plenary Talk 13: Bigger, Better, Higher, Faster, Under Pressure: Burnout’s Ripple Effect on Life, Work and The Path to Sustainable Action • Speaker: Hon.Prof.(FH) Dr Petra Heidler , Institute International Business and Economics, IMC Krems, University of Applied Sciences, Austria
11:10 – 11:30	Plenary Talk 14: Multidisciplinary Collaboration Bridging Climate Action & Societal Impact: Healthcare, Communication and Innovation • Speaker: Dr Liza Diniarizky Putri , Associate Professor, Department of Communications Science, Serang Raya University Dr. Ing. Farid Wajdi , Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, Serang Raya University Dr Sheena Ramazanu , Assistant Professor, Serang Raya University
11:30 – 11:50	Keynote Address 5: Kenyalang Smart City (KSC) Miri: A Blueprint for Sustainable Urban Transformation • Speaker: Ar. Teo Ah Khing , Chairman, TAK Group of Companies, Malaysia
11:50 – 12:10	Plenary Talk 15: Turning Life Cycle Assessment into Action for Environmental Impact Reduction — My Research Story about ELEXIA • Speaker: Dr. Janie Ling Chin , Associate Professor, Department of Engineering, Durham University, United Kingdom
12:10 – 12:30	Plenary Talk 16: Improving Health through Patient Autonomy: The Promise of AI • Speaker: Ms. Brilynne Zhang , Brand Director, BUZUD, Republic of Singapore
12:30 – 14:00	Networking Lunch / Zuhr Prayer
14:00 – 17:00	Real Action Research Collaboration & Networking Opportunities



Main Conference Timetable



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

3-5 DECEMBER 2025

DAY 3: 5 December 2025 (Friday) | Venue: Grand Ballroom Eastwood Valley Golf & Country Club

GALA Dinner

Dress Code: Black Tie/ Evening Dress

18:00 – 19:00	Registration & Magazine Booth
19:00 – 20:00	Opening Ceremony • Arrival of VIPs, MC opening and safety briefing, singing of the National and Sarawak Anthem, recital of doa • Welcome Speech by Professor Roy Rillera Marzo, Chairman of GlobeCoReS 2025 and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Health • Opening Speech by Professor Vincent Lee Chieng Chen, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University Malaysia • Officiating Guest of Honour Speech & Official Toast by YB Datuk Amar Professor Sim Kui Hian, Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government
20:00 – 21:15	Awards & Recognition Ceremony • 2025 GlobeSync Catalyst Award • Best Paper / Poster Presentation Awards • Recognition of Speakers • Recognition of Partnerships • Outstanding Network Ambassador Award
21:15 – 21:30	Special Video Presentation / Conference Montage
21:30 – 22:00	Closing • Closing Remarks by YB En. Adam Yii Siew Sang, Mayor, Miri City Council • Group Photo Session



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Partner Institutions



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

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香港都會大學
HONG KONG
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

Hong Kong Metropolitan
University, Li Ka Shing School
of Professional & Continuing
Education, Hong Kong, China.



Pavlodar Pedagogical
University Named After Alkey
Margulan, Pavlodar, Republic
of Kazakhstan



University of South Eastern
Philippines, Philippines



International Vaccine Institute,
South Korea



Rotary Malaysia District 3300
District Action Group of Autism
(DAGA), Malaysia



Serang Raya University
(UNSERA), Indonesia



SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY

Sunway University, Malaysia



Dayak Bidayuh National
Association, Malaysia



Business Events Sarawak

Business Events Sarawak (BESarawak) is a non-profit organisation established by the Sarawak Government under the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak, with the aim of securing and strategise national, international, and homegrown meetings that contribute to positive social and economic development.

Vision

To drive thriving and sustainable Business Events in Sarawak.

Mission

To establish Sarawak as one of a leading Business Events destination in the ASEAN region by championing Legacy Impact; thus, delivering significant economic transformation, social development, heritage & cultural conservation, and sustainable best practices by 2030.

Quality Policy

Our aim is to improve our level of quality performance continually to achieve our vision:

"To drive thriving and sustainable Business Events in Sarawak."

We are fully committed to providing our customers with quality services and continual improvement to satisfy customers' needs, fulfilling applicable requirements and those of ISO 9001:2015.

Roles and Services

- Convention Bidding
- Financial Support
- Delegate Boosting and Marketing
- Venue and Vendor Support
- Business Events Development
- Corporate Meetings & Incentives



Pavlodar Pedagogical University Named After Alkey Margulan, Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan.

Pavlodar Pedagogical University, based in the city of Pavlodar in the Republic of Kazakhstan, is a distinguished centre for teacher education and pedagogical research. Initially established in 1962 as a pedagogical institute, it expanded its mission and in 2017 received full university status.

Mission & Scope

Pavlodar Pedagogical University's core mission is to develop highly qualified specialists in education who can meet both regional and national needs in Kazakhstan. The institution offers a broad range of programmes through its major academic divisions, including humanities, art & sport, natural sciences, and education.

International & Research Profile

Pavlodar Pedagogical University places a strong emphasis on international cooperation and research activities. It has established agreements and joint programmes with institutions abroad, which strengthens its global outlook and collaborative capacity.

Why This Partnership Matters

As our valued partner, Pavlodar Pedagogical University brings a rich legacy of pedagogical expertise and a forward-looking academic framework. This collaboration underscores our shared commitment to quality education, cross-cultural exchange, and professional development.



BUZUD

BUZUD Singapore – REimagined Healthcare

BUZUD Singapore is an innovative healthcare technology company committed to advancing preventive healthcare and personal wellness. The company develops high-quality medical and home-health devices, including diagnostic tools, monitoring systems, and digital health solutions designed to make healthcare more accessible and convenient. BUZUD works closely with healthcare institutions and community partners to promote early detection, healthier living, and greater health empowerment. Their commitment to innovation and community well-being makes BUZUD a valuable partner in supporting education, research, and collaborative development initiatives.



IMASADINASTI
A member of TAK Group of Companies

ImasaDinasti (A member of TAK Group of Companies)

Imasa Dinasti Sdn. Bhd. is a progressive and visionary property development company based in Sarawak, Malaysia. Guided by a commitment to innovation, sustainability and community-centric development, the company focuses on creating high-quality living environments that balance modern design with long-term social and environmental responsibility.

As part of a larger and well-established development group, Imasa Dinasti has been involved in transformative projects that contribute significantly to regional progress. Their flagship initiative, the Kenyalang Smart City in Miri, reflects their ambition to introduce smart, efficient, and future-ready urban solutions to the local landscape. This project aims to set a new benchmark in urban planning by integrating digital technologies, sustainable infrastructure, and community-oriented spaces to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Imasa Dinasti's forward-thinking approach and strong development vision make them an important partner in supporting innovation, capacity building, and long-term regional growth.



Pustaka Miri (Sarawak State Library, Miri)

Pustaka Miri, officially the Miri branch of the Sarawak State Library (Pustaka Negeri Sarawak), is strategically located at the Miri City Fan along Jalan Kipas. Since opening on 19 October 2002 (officially inaugurated on 10 December 2002), it has served as a dedicated information and community centre for the northern region of Sarawak. The two-storey facility features a children's multimedia gallery with tablets and computers, a resource-rich Information Centre, an auditorium, and special collections focused on Mirian history and local heritage.

Cutting-edge innovations and services

Functioning both as a research and reference hub and a repository, Pustaka Miri holds a legal-deposit collection of materials published in Sarawak, contributes to state-wide bibliographic databases, and supports special local history archives. It also plays a vital role in promoting information literacy and community engagement — hosting educational programmes, reading campaigns, and cultural events.

In terms of innovation and service, Pustaka Miri has embraced digital transformation: since January 2020, it introduced an online booking system for its rooms and facilities, improving accessibility and convenience via Sarawak I. In addition, through its "Bookshare" initiative in partnership with Curtin University Malaysia and the Librarians Association of Sarawak, Pustaka Miri helped donate 133 books to the ILP Miri institute — underlining its commitment to outreach, literacy, and community partnership.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

Miri Hospital

Ministry of Health Malaysia, Miri Hospital

Miri Hospital, strategically located just 2.5 km from Miri city centre on Jalan Cahaya, is a cornerstone of public healthcare in northern Sarawak. Established in May 1995 and officially opened in August 1996, the hospital originally operated with about 349 beds, offering a wide range of specialist services including medical, surgical, orthopaedic, obstetrics & gynaecology, radiology, anaesthesiology, ophthalmology, and paediatrics.

Milestones and achievements

A major milestone in its development came with the completion of the new eight-storey Block B in 2024. This RM 289.2 million expansion added 328 beds, raising total capacity to about 677. This significantly enhanced critical services such as Emergency & Trauma, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, and operating theatres. Beyond just growth, Miri Hospital has strengthened its reputation through its role as a training hospital, with modern teaching facilities integrated into Block B. The hospital's adoption of sustainable construction practices, including the use of an industrialised building system (IBS) and green rating via the MyCREST system. Through these developments, Miri Hospital has evolved into a key regional medical hub, capable of handling more complex cases and serving a broad catchment area across Sarawak.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

Miri Division Health Office

Ministry of Health Malaysia, Miri Division Health Office

The Miri Divisional Health Office stands as the backbone of primary healthcare services for the entire Miri Division. As the central coordinating body for government health clinics across the region, it plays a pivotal role in delivering accessible, community-focused healthcare to both urban and rural populations.

Foundational contributions

Through its comprehensive clinic network, the Divisional Health Office provides vital services encompassing outpatient and emergency care, Maternal and Child Health, dental services, pharmaceutical support, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, medical laboratory diagnostics, and X-ray facilities. The opening of the Miri City Health Clinic marks a significant milestone, easing congestion at existing facilities while strengthening preventive care, early intervention, and community well-being. Its upgraded infrastructure reflects the Ministry of Health's commitment to delivering safe, efficient, and patient-centred services for the people of Miri. As an essential healthcare pillar in the region, the Miri Divisional Health Office continues to demonstrate leadership and excellence — making it a proud and valued partner in our project.



Questra Clinical Research, Malaysia

Questra Clinical Research, Malaysia, founded in Penang, and is a leading contract research organisation (CRO), specialising in clinical trials (Phase II to IV), bioavailability (BA) and bioequivalence (BE) studies, and bio-analytical services. Their flagship facility, the Questra Bio-Clinical Research Centre, is the first stand-alone research hospital in Malaysia dedicated to BA/BE work. The centre operates under a licensed private-healthcare framework (Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998) and is accredited by Malaysia's National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA).

Quality Standards

With a technical team whose combined experience exceeds 80 years, Questra maintains ambitious standards: its clinical experts are certified in Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and its bioanalytical team in Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). Their bioanalytical operations have been audited by regulators including the US FDA, WHO, and European authorities, and they have validated over 190 analytical methods. As a Bio-Nexus company, Questra is recognised in Malaysia's bioeconomy sector, providing a fully integrated clinical research platform with strong regulatory compliance and global audit readiness.



Rotary Malaysia District 3300, District Action Group on Autism

ROTARY MALAYSIA DISTRICT 3300, DISTRICT ACTION GROUP ON AUTISM, a district action group established in 2015 under Rotary Malaysia District 3300, located at B509, Block B, Kelana Square 17, Jalan SS 7/26 Dataran Usahawan Kelana Square, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia dedicated to promoting meaningful inclusion of children with autism in schools, young adults in vocational training, and individuals of all ages in mainstream society

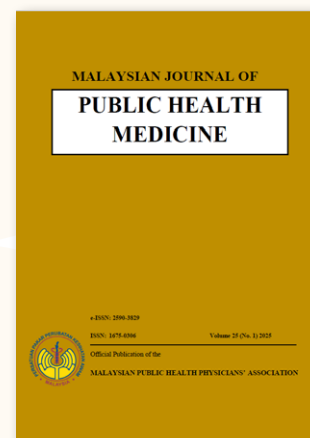
DAGA is a specialised action group under Rotary Malaysia District 3300, founded in 2015 and dedicated to championing inclusion for the autism community through meaningful engagement of children with autism in schools, young adults in vocational training, and individuals of all ages in mainstream society.



Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine (MJPHM)

The Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine (MJPHM) is a longstanding, peer-reviewed, open-access journal dedicated to advancing public health research and practice in Malaysia and the region. Established in 2001 as the official journal of the Malaysian Public Health Physicians' Association, MJPHM publishes high-quality articles across a wide spectrum of fields, including epidemiology, health policy, environmental health, biostatistics, maternal and child health, occupational health, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, and community health.

With its commitment to open access, the journal ensures that its content is freely available to all, promoting the widest possible reach among researchers, educators, and policymakers. Over the years, MJPHM has become a trusted platform for evidence-based insights and scholarly discussions, consistently contributing to national and regional public health priorities. Its regular publication, rigorous peer review, and growing visibility cement its role as an important voice in shaping public health knowledge and improving population wellbeing.



Discover Public Health (Springer Nature)

Discover Public Health, part of the Springer Nature "Discover" series, is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that showcases innovative and impactful research from across the global public health landscape. The journal welcomes contributions in areas such as epidemiology, global health, environmental and occupational health, digital health, health policy and systems research, behavioural health, disease prevention and maternal and child health.

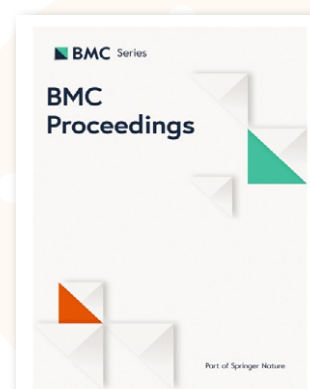
Fully open access and indexed in major databases such as DOAJ and Scopus, Discover Public Health promotes unrestricted worldwide dissemination of scientific knowledge. Its growing citation performance, including a 2024 CiteScore of 1.0, reflects its strengthening role within the international research community. Through topical collections and invited contributions on emerging issues, the journal provides a dynamic platform for evidence that informs policy, advances practice, and addresses global health challenges — making it a meaningful partner in the pursuit of health equity and community wellbeing.



BMC Proceedings (BioMed Central / Springer Nature)

BMC Proceedings is a well-established open-access journal under the BioMed Central and Springer Nature portfolio, dedicated to publishing high-quality proceedings from scientific, medical, and public health conferences. The journal provides a flexible format for disseminating full-length articles, meeting abstracts, and conference reports, ensuring that new findings and professional discussions reach a global audience quickly and transparently.

As an open-access journal, all content is freely available online, significantly enhancing visibility and accessibility for researchers and practitioners worldwide. Indexed in DOAJ, EMBASE, CAB Abstracts, ProQuest, and other major databases, BMC Proceedings enjoys strong discoverability. In recent years, it has demonstrated substantial reach, with hundreds of thousands of annual downloads and robust journal metrics reflecting its influence across diverse disciplines. With its commitment to timely dissemination and rigorous editorial standards, BMC Proceedings serves as a vital platform for sharing emerging research presented at conferences across the biomedical and public health fields.





Conference Theme, Subthemes, and Tracks



GLOBESYNC COMMUNITY RESEARCH

AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

GLOBECORES 2025

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Main Theme

From Evidence to Legacy: Transforming Research Into Sustainable Action

Subthemes (Keynote and Plenary Sessions)

Subtheme 1: Advancing Science to Sustainable Action for an Equitable and Age-Inclusive Future

Subtheme 2: Partnership, Capacity Building, and Community Engagement for a Future-Ready Health System

Subtheme 3: Drivers of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Subtheme 4: Aligning Research, Policy, and Practice for Sustainable Health, Society, and Environment

Parallel Session Tracks & Topics

Track 1: Public and Community Health

Track 2: Clinical and Biomedical Sciences

Track 3: Digital Health, Technology, and Innovation

Track 4: Education and Capacity Building

Track 5: Policy, Leadership, and Governance

Track 6: Humanities, Culture, and Society

Public and Community Health	Clinical and Biomedical Sciences	Digital Health, Technology, and Innovation	Education and Capacity Building	Society, Policy, and Engagement	Humanities, Culture, and Society
• Epidemiology • Health Promotion and Management • Primary Health Care • Maternal and Child Health • Occupational Health and Safety • Environmental Health • Indigenous Health and Well-being • Rehabilitation	• Clinical Studies and Trials • Mental Health • Disabilities • Health Sciences • Chronic Disease Management • Geriatric and Palliative Care	• Human-System Interaction (AI) • Health Care and Assistive Devices • Digital Health and Telemedicine • Biomedical Informatics • Biotechnology • Media and Health Communication	• Public Health Education and Curriculum Development • Education and Lifelong Learning • Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Sustainability • Digital Media Literacy and Public Awareness	• Business, Innovation, and Sustainable Development • Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise in Health • Governance, Policy, and Community Engagement • Leadership in Health Systems	• Sociology and Anthropology • Historical and International Studies • Geography, Environment and Development • Design and Creative Industries • Languages, Linguistics, and Literature



A Study of ESG Maturity in Construction Sector in Sarawak

Pui Yii Shuen¹, Bryan Paul², Yong Leong Kong¹

Affiliations

¹Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, Curtin University Malaysia, Miri, Sarawak

²RXA Associates Sdn Bhd, Miri, Sarawak

Corresponding Author Email

oscarpuuyiishuen57@gmail.com, yongleongkong@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

ESG, Environmental, Social, Governance, Maturity, Construction

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles are currently key determinants of legitimacy and financing access in construction. While Sarawak advances its sustainability agenda under the Sarawak Sustainability Blueprint 2030, Environment (Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Emission) Ordinance and Post-COVID Development Strategy (PCDS2030), the construction sector remains under-documented beyond compliance checklists, with little understanding of how leadership, learning, and policy signals shape practice. This study aims to determine ESG maturity in Sarawak's construction sector by examining the relationship of leadership perception and actual ESG practice in their organization.

Materials and Methods

Mixed qualitative-quantitative method was adopted in this study, which combine semi-structured interviews and the ESG-START Self-Assessment tool created by United Nation Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMYB) to evaluate both behavioural and structural ESG maturity of Sarawak's Construction Sector. A total of eighteen purposive samples were recruited in this study including senior executives from contractors, consultants, developers, government agencies, and GLCs. Interview data were then analyzed using NVivo 15, where a hybrid inductive/deductive coding approach that aligned to the ESG-START pillars and stages (Assess-Learn-Commit-Measure-Report) is used.

Results

Results showed the overall ESG maturity across Sarawak's construction sector averaged 33.0%, substantially below the sector peer benchmark of 56.3%. Environmental practices showed a 35.8% maturity level compared to 47.7% among peers. Social maturity reached 27.6% versus 56.1%. Governance recorded the lowest maturity at 32.1%, far below the peer benchmark of 65.0%. The findings reflect the ESG readiness in Sarawak's construction sector is significantly low as compared to other construction sector peers in Malaysia, whereby they have strong intent but low institutional maturity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, the ESG maturity in Sarawak construction sector is measured low, while leadership buy-ins and strong push from management will be the catalyst of further ESG readiness. Therefore, to accelerate the progression of Sarawak's regional ESG maturity level, industry leaders should pair top-down coherence and bottom-up adoption. The top-down actions including increase ESG awareness among employee, publish a unified ESG metrics set, appoint focal person (either setup in-house sustainability team or outsource to sustainability consultants) on-site for measurement tasks. To ensure an optimal integration, the bottom-up actions involve co-operation with organisation leadership, assisting in data collection for ESG reporting, and reflect the limitations during ESG implementation. This study provides the first empirically grounded ESG maturity level for Sarawak's construction ecosystem, which connect both Sarawak sustainability goals and industry execution toward a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.



Politeness Heals: How Kind Words from Nurses Trigger Endorphin Release and Strengthen Patient Immunity

Agussalim¹, Aini binti Ahmad², Zainab binti Mohd Safie³.

Affiliations

¹ Department of Medical Surgical Nursing, Parepare School of Nursing, Makassar Health Polytechnic, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia, Makassar city, Indonesia

² Open University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

³ Department of Nursing, Sultan Zainal Abidin University, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia.

Corresponding Author Email

salim170878@gmail.com

Keywords

Endorphins, immune response, therapeutic communication, antibody stimulation, nursing, patient recovery.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The use of therapeutic communication in nursing care is not merely psychological support, but may have biological consequences. This study aimed to examine the effect of polite and compassionate language by nurses on endorphin production and immune response enhancement in hospitalized patients.

Materials and Methods

This experimental study was conducted at three hospitals in South Sulawesi, Indonesia: RSUD Kota Parepare, RSUD Pinrang, and RSUD Sidrap, from January to December 2024. A total of 300 patients participated and were divided into control and intervention groups. The intervention group received consistent exposure to gentle, empathetic communication from trained nurses. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Health Research Ethics Committee of Poltekkes Kemenkes Makassar (EC/09837/2024). Data analysis included pre- and post-intervention assessments of serum endorphin levels and immunoglobulin A (IgA) concentration.

Result

Significant increases in endorphin levels and IgA concentration were observed in the intervention group ($p < 0.01$). Three statistical tables were generated: Table 1 (Pre- and Post-Test Endorphin Levels), Table 2 (Changes in IgA Concentrations), and Table 3 (ANOVA Results for Intergroup Comparison). The intervention group also reported higher subjective comfort and emotional satisfaction.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Kind and polite communication by nurses significantly improves patient physiological responses by increasing endorphin production and stimulating antibody synthesis, potentially accelerating healing.



Parental Anxiety During Children's Hospitalization at a Selected Hospital, Biratnagar, Nepal

Namu Koirala¹, Uma Pradhan², Menuka Shrestha³, Dr. Shyam Prasad Kafle⁴

Affiliations

^{1,2,3} Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, Purbanchal University School of Health Sciences, Gothgaon, Morang, Nepal

⁴ Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, BPKIHS, Dharan, Nepal

Corresponding Author Email

koiralanamu@gmail.com

Keywords

Anxiety, Parents, Hospitalization, Child, Hospitalized

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Hospitalization of the children is almost always associated with tension, apprehension and pressure. Anxiety and depressive symptoms tend to affect understanding of medical information and decision-making capacity of the parents. The objectives of this study were to assess the level of anxiety of parents of children admitted to pediatric ward of selected hospital and to find out the association of level of anxiety of parents of children admitted to pediatric ward with selected demographic variables.

Materials and Methods

A descriptive, quantitative, cross-sectional study was undertaken for a period of 12 months (March 2021 - April 2022). All the parents of children admitted to pediatric ward of Koshi Hospital Biratnagar (for at least 7 days) and who were willing to participate in the study were included in the study. Convenience sampling was adopted and total 102 samples were included. Ethical clearance was taken from Institutional Review Committee of Purbanchal University School of Health Sciences. Structured interview technique was used and Nepali version of Hospital Anxiety Scale was used to assess the level of anxiety. Data was entered in Microsoft EXCEL and analysis was done using SPSS 16.0 version using mean, median, standard deviation, range and inferential analysis was done using Mann Whitney U test and spearman correlation test.

Results

Among the parents, 40.2% of the respondents had mild anxiety, followed by moderate anxiety (35.3%), whereas 13.7% had severe anxiety and 10.8% had no anxiety. The parental anxiety had significant association with gender ($p=0.007$), previous hospitalization ($p=0.005$) and duration of illness ($p=0.005$) at $p<0.05$. There was significant positive correlation between age and parental anxiety scores ($p=0.003$) at $p<0.05$.

Conclusion and Recommendations

There was varying level of anxiety among the parents of hospitalized children ranging from mild to severe anxiety. These findings are suggestive of nursing interventions to ease parental coping and reduction of anxiety. Those interventions might include disseminating information to increase parental awareness of the children's condition, developing or supporting new or existing coping behaviors, and supervision of the parents in supporting their children, which should immediately begin as soon as the child is admitted to the hospital.



Who Moves the Needle? Opinion Leaders, Source Credibility, and HPV Vaccination Decisions among Female Students at Universiti Malaya

Jiang Zenghao¹, Liu Zhixi¹, Wang Han¹, Kavitha Chirara² & Sarmila Muthukrishnan¹, *

Affiliations

¹Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

²Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, UCSI University, Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Corresponding Author Email

sarmila_tm@um.edu.my

Keywords

Science communications; HPV vaccination adoption; Opinion leaders; Communication strategies; and Vaccine hesitancy

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

One of the most common sexually transmitted infections in the world is undoubtedly human papillomavirus (HPV). The chance of each woman being infected with HPV before the age of 50 is approximately 80%. Even though most HPV infections can be cured, if one is persistently infected with HPV, it may increase the risk of cervical cancer and genital warts (Braaten & Laufer, 2008). The World Health Organization (WHO, 2024) and other health organizations strongly recommend that people get the HPV vaccine, but the HPV vaccination rate remains low worldwide. Effective science communication can enable people to have a better understanding of health risks and make correct judgments; science communication is very important. Trust plays a crucial role in many aspects such as among researchers in the field of science and between researchers and various groups influenced by their research. Moreover, scientific practice can both promote and potentially harm the public's trust in science (Intemann, 2023). Hence, this study focuses on how different communication methods influence people's views on the HPV vaccine.

Materials and Methods

This study adopted a rigorous quantitative research design to analyse the relationship between science communication methods, the influence of opinion leaders (mediator), and HPV vaccination rates among Universiti Malaya female students (different age group & educational level). Data collection targeted 385 valid responses (calculated for 95% confidence) through purposeful sampling with age-based quota control to ensure sample diversity. Total of 40-item structured questionnaire distributed via Google Forms, was validated in a pilot study on 30 participants (confirming reliability via Cronbach's $\alpha > 0.7$). The final analysis was conducted using SPSS 28.0, employing Pearson Correlation to test variable relationships and Stepwise Regression (Bootstrap method) specifically to verify the mediating role of opinion leaders. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from Universiti Malaya Research Ethics Committee (UMREC) with the reference number of UM.TNC(P&I)/UMREC_5150.

Results

The central finding was that the influence of science communication on HPV vaccination rates is indirect, mediated significantly by opinion leaders. Regarding information exposure, Social Media Influencers (SMI) were cited as the primary source of vaccine information by 58.7% of respondents, drastically outranking doctors (8.8%). However, when evaluating source credibility, Medical Experts (ME) were rated as the most persuasive and trustworthy (Mean=4.47), supporting the hypothesis that professional credibility amplifies communication impact. Overall, the analysis supported the positive relationship between communication efforts, opinion leader influence, and vaccine decisions, while also highlighting that this influence varies across different demographic groups, particularly among Malaysian and non-Malaysian students.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Effective science communication and guidance from credible opinion leaders can significantly increase HPV vaccination willingness and coverage among women. Public health campaigns should strategically pair high-reach channels (e.g., social media platforms) with high-credibility messengers (e.g., trusted physicians, medical societies) to transform complex HPV vaccine information into accessible content, thereby increasing vaccination willingness and coverage.



Gait Analysis for Diabetes Detection – A Systematic Review

Jonathan Qi Yuan Seow¹, Saaveethya Sivakumar¹, Calvin Su Hang Lau¹

Affiliations

¹ Faculty of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Curtin University, Miri, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

saaveethya.s@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Diabetes detection, machine learning, Inertial Measurement Units, Internet of Things, gait acceleration, non-invasive diabetes sensor

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Diabetes is a chronic disease that causes complications such as diabetic neuropathy (DN) and diabetic foot ulcers (DFU), which alter an individual's gait patterns. Conventional finger-prick glucose testing is invasive and often uncomfortable. This review evaluates diabetes detection sensors across invasive, minimally invasive, and non-invasive methods, with a focus on gait-based wearable methods. The review question is among adults with or at risk of diabetes, the effectiveness of IMU, plantar pressure, PPG, and NIR sensors compared to conventional glucose monitoring in achieving high diagnostic accuracy in experimental or machine learning-based studies.

Materials and Methods

This literature review follows a systematic approach to ensure inclusion of current and relevant studies. Academic databases such as Web of Science and Google Scholar were used to search for papers or articles. Articles from publishers such as PubMed, IEEE Xplore, and Elsevier are always prioritised. Studies published in Q1 and Q2 journals were preferred, and sources from Beall's list were excluded. Eligible studies involving adults with or at risk of Type 2 diabetes or DN or DFU focused on sensor-based detection using IMU, plantar pressure, PPG, or NIR methods. Diagnostic performance outcomes such as accuracy, AUC, or MARD were recorded. Bias was assessed using the QUADAS-2 tool to evaluate the quality of test accuracy studies.

Results

The finger-pricking method to detect diabetes may lead to several adverse effects such as pain, discomfort, increased risk of blood-related infections and trauma. In addition, detecting diabetes among some diabetic patients may be challenging as they delay or avoid diagnosis due to fear of needles and injections (K. Alsbrooks et al., 2022). Minimally invasive sensors that use different methods, such as Electrochemical, Optical, Reverse Iontophoresis, and Microneedle, may reduce the limitations of the Finger-Pricking method, but each of these methods also has its own disadvantages.

Machine learning models can be utilised to predict or detect diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease (S. Chaudhari et al., 2023). ML models such as CNN, LSTM, SVM and MLP are often used in developing a non-invasive diabetes sensor by analysing gait patterns and plantar pressure. Wu et al. developed a wearable device for real-time gait phase detection using an MCU and ML model (Wu et al., 2021).

Conclusions and Recommendations

These limitations highlight the need for non-invasive alternatives. Future studies should prioritize external validation, prospective cohort designs, and comparisons with HbA1c or OGTT. Next, evaluating the cost and acceptability of wearables is essential. Key limitations include dataset heterogeneity, confounding factors (age, BMI, neuropathy), poor calibration reporting, and limited longitudinal evidence.



End-to-End Privacy for Medical Imaging: Differentially Private Federated Learning with Homomorphic Encryption Inference on PathMNIST

Chian Hui Lee¹, King Hann Lim¹, Sivaraman Eswaran¹

Affiliations

¹ Faculty of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Curtin University, Miri, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

lchianhui@postgrad.curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Federated Learning, Differential Privacy, Homomorphic Encryption, Medical Imaging, MedMNIST, Concrete-ML

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Collaborative model development in healthcare requires learning without patient data egress. Most prior work secures either the training phase with federated learning and differential privacy (Adnan et al., 2022; Kartit, 2022), or the serving phase with homomorphic encryption, resulting in an incomplete end-to-end guarantee (Kumar et al., 2022; Rieke et al., 2020). This study develops and evaluates an integrated pipeline that couples differentially private federated learning (DP-FL) with fully homomorphic encryption for inference on the PathMNIST benchmark, with an emphasis on auditability, deployment readiness, and fidelity to plaintext predictive behavior.

Materials and Methods

Experiments are conducted on PathMNIST, comprising 107,180 RGB images at 28x28 resolution across nine classes, using the official train, validation, and test splits. Standard CNN backbones MedMNISTNet and ResNet-18 are used to train cross-silo federated learning on PathMNIST (Yang et al., 2023).

For cross-silo federated learning, local updates use FedProx with AdamW at a learning rate of $1e-4$, weight decay of $1e-4$, batch size of 256, μ set to 0.01, and one local epoch per communication round. Global aggregation leverages FedAvg with sample-size weighting. Client heterogeneity is introduced through Dirichlet partitioning with α equal to 0.5, alongside IID baselines, and scalability is evaluated with cohorts of 4, 8, 16, and 32 clients.

Differentially private training employs DP-SGD with per-sample gradient clipping set to C in $\{1.0, 1.5, 2.0\}$ and Gaussian noise with σ in $\{5, 8, 10\}$. Privacy accounting uses Rényi differential privacy with conversion to (ϵ, δ) -DP at a fixed δ of $1e-5$. For encrypted serving, penultimate feature vectors feed a Concrete-ML logistic-regression head executed under homomorphic encryption.

Results

Encrypted inference reproduced plaintext predictions with $\geq 99.8\%$ agreement on heldout data, evidencing semantic equivalence. A representative operating point (10 clients, 100 rounds) with $C = 1.0$ and $\sigma = 10$ achieved $\epsilon = 2.42$ and 86.04% test accuracy, indicating a competitive privacy-utility balance. Across client scales, non-IID performance tracked IID baselines but degraded with higher heterogeneity; at 32 clients, non-IID peak accuracy lagged IID by approximately 4.2%. Parameter sweeps delineated stable regions in which macro-F1 remained robust under moderate noise.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposed pipeline provides end-to-end privacy for medical imaging: DP-FL mitigates training-time leakage, and HE prevents plaintext exposure during inference without materially altering model behavior. Reporting ϵ alongside confusion matrices each round, enforcing HE conversion gates based on per-class quality are recommended. Future work will incorporate stronger attack simulations such as membership inference attack and model inversion attack. However, PathMNIST classification under honest-but-curious threat model, hence Byzantine clients, poisoning, and cross-runtime homomorphic encryption portability are out of scope.



Perceived Effects of Social Isolation on Group Assessments among International First and Second-Year Students at an East Malaysian University: A Qualitative Study.

Mitshel Lino¹, Joseph Sia Kee Ming¹, Voltisa Thartori¹

Affiliations

¹ Curtin University Malaysia, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Corresponding Author Email

mitshel.lino@gmail.com

Keywords

International students; Social isolation; Group work; Qualitative interview; First and second-year undergraduates; East Malaysian University

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The present study examined the phenomenon of social isolation experienced by first and second-year international students at Curtin University Malaysia and its implications perceived effects on group assessments. The early years of university is often a challenging time of academic and personal development for many students (Cameron & Rideout, 2020). But for international students, the experience can be unnerving. While starting a university journey in a new country can be exciting, many international students frequently experience social isolation when adapting to a host country with a new culture, communication styles, and social environment. Thus, social isolation may impact students' engagement and conflict resolution skills, especially in the context of group assessment, which may affect their academic achievement (Ali Khan et al., 2023).

Materials and Methods

A qualitative study method, specifically a semi-structured, one-on-one online interview, was carried out with 12 first-year undergraduate international students from all three faculties (i.e., FoES, FoB, and FoHHS). The participants were recruited through purposive and snowball sampling methods. The participant included six males and six females, aged 18 and older, who had completed at least one semester of academic study. Each interview lasted about an hour. Interviews were conducted in either English or Mandarin - the latter was back translated to English for readability and ease of analysis. The interview timeframe was July – October 2025 (S2 2025). Data saturation was achieved. The interview transcription was manually analysed using thematic analysis by the investigator team (member checking) to ensure interrater reliability. The study was approved by Research Office at Curtin: HRE2025-0399.

Results

Some prominent themes emerged, such as 'Language barrier as a precursor to social isolation', and contradictory findings such as 'Group assessments reduce social isolation', 'Mutual influences of social isolation and group assessments.'

Conclusions and Recommendations

This is one of the earliest studies from East Malaysia to examine the factors contributing to social isolation among undergraduate international students and perceived effects on group assessments. The study will be providing insights into the specific challenges faced by international students in their transition to a new culture and social and learning environment. Practically, targeted interventions such as intercultural communication scaffolds, inclusive collaborations, and structured role assignment in groups may be developed by the various university departments such as the Counselling and Office of Learning and Teaching. The trainings may help relevant stakeholders to improve social integration and mental health support for international students.



Smart Vision in Biotechnology: Deep Learning Innovations for Microalgae Cell Counting Using YOLOv8

Pin Jern Kera*, Vimal Angela Thiviyanathanab*, Hassan Mohamedb, Hasan Firdaus Mohd Zakic, Hui Jing Leeb, Shirley G.H. Tangd, Kai Ling Yua, Nazlina Haiza Mohd Yasin

Affiliations

^a School of Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Sunway University, No. 5, Jalan Universiti, Bandar Sunway, 47500, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

^b Institute of Sustainable Energy (ISE), Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Jalan IKRAM-UNITEN, 43000, Kajang, Selangor

^c Department of Mechatronics Engineering, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia

^d Center for Toxicology and Health Risk Studies (CORE), Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz, Kuala Lumpur 50300, Malaysia

^e Department of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600, UKM, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Emails

*Pin Jern Ker (pinjernk@sunway.edu.my)

*Vimal Angela Thiviyanathan (vimalangelat@sunway.edu.my)

Keywords

Deep Learning, Faster R-CNN, Microalgae Cell Counting, SSD, YOLOv8

ABSTRACT

Introduction / Background

Microalgae are seen as promising bioresources for renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and food applications. However, large-scale production is constrained by labor-intensive and error-prone monitoring methods such as manual microscopy. Reliable and automated monitoring is essential for optimizing growth conditions and maximizing biomass yield. This study introduces an artificial intelligence (AI)-based approach for automated cell counting using deep learning, contributing to digital transformation in biosystem monitoring and smart bioprocessing.

Materials and Methodology

Three object detection models, which were the Single Shot Detector (SSD), Faster Region-Based Convolutional Neural Network (Faster R-CNN), and You Only Look Once version 8 (YOLOv8), were trained and evaluated for microalgae cell detection and counting. A total of 1 microscopic image with varying cell densities (20–1000 cells/image) were annotated using Roboflow and processed with image augmentation techniques. The models were trained using transfer learning on NVIDIA RTX A4000 GPUs and validated through 5-fold cross-validation. Performance metrics, including precision, recall, and F1-score, were used to assess model robustness and accuracy.

Results

Among the three models, YOLOv8 achieved the highest performance with consistent F1-scores between 0.95 and 0.99 across all cell density ranges. Its superior accuracy was attributed to enhanced feature fusion and the use of Complete Intersection over Union (CIoU) and Distribution Focal Loss (DFL) functions, which improved the detection of small and overlapping cells. In contrast, SSD and Faster R-CNN demonstrated reduced accuracy for dense or clustered cell images due to their reliance on anchor-based detection and limited feature resolution.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The YOLOv8 model offers significant advancement in automated microalgae monitoring by combining speed, precision, and scalability. The model's ability to accurately detect cell counts across various growth stages enables real-time bioprocess optimization and reduces human error. Integration with Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud-based monitoring systems can further enhance remote data acquisition and control, supporting sustainable and intelligent bioproduction. Future work may focus on expanding the dataset to include diverse microalgae species and integrating the model into an end-to-end digital biomanufacturing platform.



Evaluation of the Anti-Diabetic Properties of *Andrographis paniculata* Extract by In Silico Analysis

Rauda A.Mohamed¹, Narmatha Naidu Gunasekaran², Ng Shee Ping³, Evyan Yang Chia Yang⁴

Affiliations

^{1,2,3,4} Faculty of Intelligent Healthcare Technologies, Nilai University, Nilai, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Emails

rauda@nilai.edu.my

narmathagunasekaran1127@gmail.com

Keywords

Diabetes Mellitus, *Andrographis paniculata*, α -amylase, 3,4-dicaffeoylquinic acid, Xanthone

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder caused by high blood glucose levels and has been treated with various groups of drugs for many years. However, the administration of anti-diabetic medication has been showing adverse effects and signs of toxicity resulting in suggestions in trying alternative herbal treatment (National Library of Medicine, 2020). *Andrographis paniculata*, is a plant that has been widely used in Ayurveda and Siddha for many years with andrographolide as its main phytochemical exhibiting hypoglycaemic properties (Zhao, Y. et al., 2014). Andrographolide has shown signs of toxicity in several studies and is to be used with caution (Shang, Y.X. et al., 2022). Nevertheless, extensive studies are required towards other useful phytochemicals in the plant that contribute to better enzyme inhibition, considering the side effects exuded by Andrographolide. This study aims in evaluating the anti-diabetic properties of *Andrographis paniculata* extract by in silico analysis.

Materials and Methods

YASARA, a bioinformatic tool that implements AutoDock program, was used to conduct the molecular docking simulations. This docking process was performed using a pre-made script that had been downloaded from the link, dock_run.mcr. Initially, the 3D structure of the α -amylase (PDB Id: 1SMD) was downloaded in PDB format from the Protein Data Bank database. Meanwhile, the 2D structures of 18 phytochemicals compounds were downloaded from Pubchem database. Removal of water molecules and co-crystallisation was done towards the protein, followed by energy minimisation and docking. In this study, the potential inhibitors towards α -amylase were screened based on their binding affinity and number of contacting functional residues by deploying YASARA program. Several others molecular interactions such as number of hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic interactions and π - π stacking were also analysed.

Results

The result shows that among 18 phytochemicals screened, 3,4-dicaffeoylquinic acid (xanthone), has the highest binding energy which means high inhibition potential towards α -amylase (9.27 kcal/mol) as compared to the andrographolide which has the binding energy of 7.34 kcal/mol. The compound possesses 18 to 19 interactions towards the catalytic residues and forming numerous bonds with the enzyme's active site (3 hydrogen bonds, 8 hydrophobic interactions and 4 pi-pi interactions). Thus, 3,4-dicaffeoylquinic acid, which obtained a high binding energy value and consists of the highest multiple molecular interactions with the residues of α -amylase has shown its ability to fit well and bind more tightly to the active site of the protein.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Hence, 3,4-dicaffeoylquinic acid should be the most promising compound in preventing the breakdown and absorption of glucose. Previous studies shown that xanthone has no side effects when given on its own or in combination with other drugs thus, is a promising solution to overcome the growing issue of diabetes mellitus. This research study will further consider in vitro experimental studies, to justify the results obtained and will focus on testing the anti-diabetic properties of 3,4-dicaffeoylquinic acid, obtained from the *Andrographis paniculata* plant extract towards alpha amylase.



Perception of How Short Form Content Builds Awareness in Youth

Dhanashree Giri Amatya

Affiliation

Department of Media and Communications, Curtin University, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

giridhanashree3@gmail.com

Keywords

Short form Content, youth awareness, media literacy, social media influence, youth perception.

ABSTRACT

Introduction and Background

The rise of short form of media across various social networking platforms has lately pivoted the way the media is consumed. For instance, social networking sites like TikTok, Facebook, Instagram have come up with features to host streaming of up to 1 minutes on an average. This micro prose, unlike longer content, have changed the viewing preferences of the audience opening up new opportunities in various sectors like marketing and education. This study investigates the perception that exists, and to what extent these perceptions of using short form content in building awareness in youth is valid.

Materials and Methods

This paper presents the descriptive analysis of data collected as a pilot study from 100 respondents on their perceptions, motivations, and behaviours toward short-form content. The SPSS database was used to generate descriptive statistical reports, identify any remaining missing data across variables, and conduct preliminary diagnostic tests, including assessments of normality and collinearity. In addition, multiple response analysis, cross-tabulations, and inferential tests such as correlation, regression, t-test, and ANOVA were also conducted. The findings are structured according to the three research questions.

Result

The findings suggests that today's youth is motivated to watch short-form content mainly because it is easy to consume, visually appealing, and relatable suggesting a shorter attention span. Secondly, trust and perceived effectiveness significantly predict purchasing behaviour. That said, both genders perceive trust similarly, but younger respondents are more engaged and finally, youth interact heavily with short-form content, especially on TikTok and Instagram, with gender differences in platform preference.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The findings suggest a major shift in the youth's media consumption behaviour, offering potential research opportunities in marketing and brand strategy for Curtin University. These perceptions can help align messaging strategies with youth insights and recall patterns more effectively. Furthermore, the study suggests that short-form content holds promise for educating and engaging young audiences with shorter attention spans. Further, this research could be expanded on these finding by exploring how short-form content influences students' learning experiences, particularly within the context of teaching and learning innovation projects.



Genomic Characterization of Bacteriophages Targeting Cariogenic Oral Streptococcus spp. Isolated from Dental Plaque

Hooi Chia Tang^{1*}, Chin Chin Sieo²

Affiliations

¹Faculty of Medicine, Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM), Jalan Padang Jambu, Bukit Baru, 75150, Malacca, Malaysia,

²Laboratory of Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics, Institute of Bioscience, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

tang.chia@manipal.edu.my

Keywords

Bacteriophage; Genomics; Oral microbiome; Oral Streptococcus; Antimicrobial therapy

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The emergence of antibiotic-resistant oral pathogens has intensified the search for alternative therapies for dental caries. Bacteriophages offer species-specific targeting of cariogenic bacteria while preserving commensal flora. This study characterized the genomic properties of lytic phages against dental Streptococcus isolates to evaluate their therapeutic potential.

Material and Methods

Bacteriophages were isolated from 44 environmental samples using enrichment cultures with a Streptococcus host strain. Samples were mixed with log-phase Streptococcus host (isolate H2, OD600=0.6). Phage purification was performed through plaque isolation and density gradient centrifugation. Genomic DNA was extracted from PEG-concentrated phage lysates. Restriction enzyme analysis was performed using EcoRV, Sall, and HindIII followed by electrophoresis on 0.7% agarose gels.

Results

Two lytic phages were successfully isolated, both showing strong activity against the host strain. Genomic analysis confirmed double-stranded DNA genomes. Restriction enzyme digestion revealed identical patterns for both phages, suggesting they represent the same viral strain. The estimated genome size exceeded 28 kilobase pairs, consistent with other therapeutic phages targeting Gram-positive bacteria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The genomic characterisation presented in this study demonstrates that the isolated phages possess several advantageous properties, including genetic stability and efficient replication within their target host, which are important for therapeutic development, such as dental caries prevention. The consistent restriction patterns across multiple enzymes suggested a stable genomic organization, which is crucial for maintaining predictable lytic activity in potential clinical applications. Future research should focus on complete genome sequencing and evaluation of the phages' effects on oral microbial communities. These findings support further development of phage-based approaches for maintaining oral health.



Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Analysis of Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) Microplastic Biodegradation by Soil-Derived *Bacillus* spp.

Abdullah Yahya Al-Mahdi^{*1}, Marwah M. A. Al-Sheikh², Dheya A. H. Ali³, Mohammed F. Baobaid¹, Nurul Akmal Binti Jamaludin¹, Imad I. Al-Sultan¹, Husni Ahmed Abdullah Al-Goshae¹, Mahfoud A.M. Abdulghani¹, Belqes H. A. Serag⁴, Mohammed H. Ibrahim¹

Affiliations

¹ International Medical School (IMS), Management & Science University (MSU), Shah Alam, 40100, Selangor, Malaysia.

² Biology Department, Faculty of Science, Sana'a University, Sana'a, Yemen.

³ Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Sana'a University, Sana'a, Yemen.

⁴ Department of Management, Faculty of Management, Lincoln University College, Malaysia.

Corresponding Author Email

Abdullah Yahya Al-Mahdi, abdullah_yahya@msu.edu.my

Keywords

Microplastics; Low-Density Polyethylene; Biodegradation; *Bacillus* spp.; Fourier Transform Infrared analysis; Environmental bioremediation.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Plastic pollution has become a major environmental concern due to the persistence of synthetic polymers such as low-density polyethylene (LDPE). Biodegradation using naturally occurring soil bacteria offers an eco-friendly alternative to conventional disposal methods. *Bacillus* spp., known for their enzymatic versatility, have been identified as potential degraders of polymeric materials. This study aimed to evaluate the LDPE microplastic biodegradation potential of soil-derived bacterial isolates using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy to assess polymer structural changes.

Materials and Methods

Fifty soil samples were collected from diverse environments in Yemen and Malaysia. Bacterial isolates were obtained using serial dilution and standard culturing techniques, yielding 193 isolates. Screening for LDPE degradation was performed through a shake-flask incubation method using pre-weighed LDPE microplastic films as substrates. Post-incubation, the extent of polymer degradation was evaluated via weight loss measurements and FTIR analysis to detect chemical bond alterations indicative of biodegradation.

Results

Out of 193 isolates, 17 (8.8%) demonstrated LDPE-degrading ability. These were categorized into low (12 isolates), moderate (4 isolates), and high (1 isolate) degradation efficiency groups. Notably, 50% of the effective isolates were identified as *Bacillus* species, including *B. cereus*, *B. weihenstephanensis*, and *B. pumilus*. Among them, *B. weihenstephanensis* strain BSW-2 exhibited the highest biodegradation activity, as confirmed by distinct FTIR spectral shifts corresponding to carbonyl and hydroxyl functional group formation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The findings highlight the biodegradation potential of *Bacillus* spp., particularly *B. weihenstephanensis*, in decomposing LDPE microplastics. These bacteria could serve as promising candidates for large-scale bioremediation of plastic-contaminated environments. Further studies should focus on optimizing biodegradation conditions and elucidating the enzymatic pathways responsible for polymer breakdown.



Reflective Diary on Basic Medical Science Curriculum Framework Creation: As a Subject Lead in Content Creation and Curriculum Blueprinting Project

Thurein Win¹, Swe Yin Khin Htun², Helen Crawley³

Affiliations

¹Medical Educator (Freelance)

²Senior Medical Educator(NHS Trust);Honorary Associate Professor, University of Nottingham (Role: supervisor)

³Chair of Trustees,HESG (Role: submission governance)

Corresponding Author Email

drthureinwinumt@yahoo.com

Keywords

Basic Medical Science Curriculum Framework, Subject Lead, Content Creation, Blueprinting

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

As a practicing medical educator, I actively seek opportunities to continue my professional development. With this time, I completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Education hosted by Health Education Support Group, HESG which underpins my commitment to applying evidence-based pedagogical principles.

HESG is a registered UK charity, supporting healthcare across low- and middle- income countries by providing and facilitating education, training, and mentoring to health workers. As PG Diploma coursework, they provide experiential learning opportunities for participants including curriculum framework creation. These frameworks are context specific including geographical location, cadre of health professional, and level of previous qualifications. For medical students, the content is cross-referenced against speciality and clinical presentations, programme learning outcomes, and major module learning outcomes incorporating the General Medical Council(GMC) Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) content map, plus local priorities.

I participated as a volunteer as a subject lead. This involved blueprinting the respective subject against the MLA. This might be a useful model for newly founded medical schools in future, as it facilitates medical school curriculum development to GMC and international standards. I gained new experiences and skills, to become a future medical educator in an AI age society.(Learn, Unlearn and Relearn)

Materials and Methods

From these experiences, I wrote a reflective diary to capture my experiences, and how I to apply them in similar situations in the future or share my learning. Usually, basic medical sciences curricula are subject orientated. By mapping the pre-clinical curriculum against GMC learning outcomes(conditions against presentations), clinical reasoning is introduced earlier. This supports integrated system/symptoms-based teaching, to better prepare our future medical doctors, and could have a huge impact on our own medical education system.(Medical Educational transformation)

Results

This model would provide opportunities for medical students to gain early clinical exposure and enhanced clinical reasoning. Our teaching and learning methods, and assessments, would need to adapt in line with the blueprint.(Outcome-based Medical Curriculum)

Conclusions and Recommendations

My curriculum blueprinting role was collaborative, needing technical knowledge, insight, and in-depth academic work. Strong institutional leadership is required for sustainable overall development. The contents needed specific contexts. This a decisive role for local stakeholders who know health policies and systems and are able to combine current global best practice with adaptations in line with local contexts. This will help us attain our educational goals and achievements, to fulfil our professional, and thus, our community needs.



The Impact of Incarceration on Male Prisoners in Malaysia: Psychological Health, Social Reintegration, and Economic Challenges

Azureen binti Abd Aziz¹, Mohammad Rahim Kamaluddin¹, Blazej Przybylski², Rose Ricciardelli³

Affiliations

¹ Centre of Psychology and Human Development, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, National University of Malaysia (UKM), 43600, Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

² Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegorzewskiej, The Maria Grzegorzewska University, ul. Szczęśliwicka 40, 02-353 Warszawa, Poland

³ Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

⁴ Faculty of Education and Liberal Arts, INTI International University, Persiaran Perdana BBN, Putra Nilai, 71800, Nilai, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

azureen.abdaziz@newinti.edu.my

Keywords

Incarceration, Malaysia, qualitative research, psychological distress, reintegration, stigma, prisons

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Incarceration exerts significant and enduring impacts on male inmates, especially in developing nations like Malaysia. The psychological, emotional, and economic ramifications of incarceration frequently obstruct the effective reintegration of released inmates into society. Notwithstanding increasing apprehensions, the scientific comprehension of the effects of incarceration on male detainees' well-being and their post-release difficulties remains insufficient. We conducted a qualitative study to explore men's lived experiences of mental health in custody and their perceptions of family, economic, and social challenges that may affect reintegration after release.

Materials and Methods

A qualitative study was executed from January to July 2025, encompassing 30 male inmates from three Malaysian prisons. Participants were intentionally selected to encompass a diverse array of ages, nationalities, and offences. Comprehensive, semi-structured interviews were performed to investigate experiences pertaining to mental health, familial relationships, economic difficulties, and social reintegration. The data were analyzed thematically, emphasizing the principal themes of psychological deterioration, fractured relationships, financial instability, and the stigma encountered post-release. Ethical considerations were emphasized, guaranteeing confidentiality and informed consent.

Results

The results indicated considerable psychological difficulties, including anxiety, sadness, and post-traumatic stress disorder, intensified by isolation and severe prison circumstances. Family connections were frequently disrupted, with numerous offenders indicating a deficiency of familial support following jail. Financial instability constitutes a significant obstacle to reintegration, as most participants encounter difficulties securing jobs due to their criminal records. The stigma linked to being a former inmate further exacerbated societal marginalization. Participants articulated the necessity for enhanced rehabilitation programs, more robust mental health services, and more complete reintegration initiatives. The results aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The research highlights the importance of cohesive rehabilitation programs, strong mental health services, and thorough post-release reintegration measures. Evidence indicates that enhancing psychological assistance and resolving financial and social reintegration challenges could markedly decrease recidivism and improve the well-being of former convicts. Policymakers are urged to overhaul the penal system to facilitate the successful rehabilitation of inmates, emphasizing comprehensive and sustainable strategies. Moreover, long-term programs must integrate mental health services and allocate sufficient resources to facilitate the successful reintegration of former prisoners into society.



Risk Factors for Conduct Disorder from Birth to Adolescence: A Critical Review of Biological, Environmental, and Social Determinants

Dr Millie Newman

Affiliation

Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Bristol, Bristol, England, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author Email

millieanewman@outlook.com

Keywords

Conduct Disorder, Childhood Behaviour, Risk Factors, Early Intervention, Mental Health, Socioeconomic Status

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Conduct Disorder (CD) is among the most prevalent psychiatric diagnoses in childhood and adolescence, affecting approximately 5% of young people globally. Characterised by persistent antisocial, aggressive, or defiant behaviour, CD imposes major personal, social, and economic costs. Despite extensive research into isolated factors, few studies provide a comprehensive synthesis of risks from prenatal development through adolescence. This review aimed to critically evaluate biological, psychosocial, and sociocultural risk factors associated with the development of CD to inform early intervention and policy.

Materials and Methods

A critical literature review was conducted using six electronic databases: Web of Science, Scopus, ERIC, Medline, PsycINFO, and PubMed. Boolean logic combined search terms related to "conduct disorder," "risk factors," and "childhood." Peer-reviewed, English-language articles relevant to children and comparable to the UK welfare context were included. From an initial yield of 673 articles, 10 key studies were identified following systematic screening and application of inclusion and exclusion criteria. Data were analysed thematically according to three domains of risk.

Results

Three interconnected domains emerged: biological predispositions, early life experiences, and sociocultural influences. Genetic heritability of CD was shown to increase from childhood ($h^2 = 0.06$) to adolescence ($h^2 = 0.50$), reflecting gene-environment interaction. Prenatal exposure to maternal smoking significantly predicted CD ($p < 0.01$), while low serotonin, male sex, and poor sleep were also associated. Early trauma, harsh or inconsistent parenting, and insecure attachment were strong predictors of conduct problems. Socioeconomic disadvantage ($p < 0.001$), family instability, and deviant peer affiliation further elevated risk, suggesting that cumulative adversity amplifies vulnerability to CD.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conduct disorder (CD) arises from well-established risk factors which tend to fall into three pre-disposing categories; biological, socio-cultural and early life experiences (Dodge and Pettit, 2003). Understanding these risks is essential for early, targeted interventions and evidence-based policy development. Cross-sector collaboration between psychiatry, education, social work, and youth justice should prioritize prevention, parental education, and professional training to identify at-risk children early. Integrated, prevention-focused policies addressing both individual and environmental factors can help mitigate the long-term impact of CD.



A practical project into the effectiveness of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation to treat Social Anxiety Disorder

Kiran Stowell¹, Matthew Garner², Josh Hyde²

Affiliations

¹ Department of Medicine, University of Southampton, Southampton UK

² Department of Psychology, University of Southampton, Southampton UK

Corresponding Author Email

kiranstowell@yahoo.co.uk

Keywords

Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation, Attention Bias, Negative Thought Intrusions, Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex, Modulating

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) is the most common anxiety disorder and is characterised by a fear of social situations where the person fears being negatively evaluated by other. It is caused by a hypo-responsive pre-frontal cortex (PFC), particularly its dorsolateral section (DLPFC). This means it cannot fulfil its function as the executive control of attention which means patients over-fixate on non-relevant stimuli, which they incorrectly perceived as threatening. Current treatment methods for SAD, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and pharmacological interventions (most commonly SSRIs) have either had their efficacy overestimated or come with considerable side effects. Previous limited research has indicated anodal transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) of the PFC excites the cortical tissue in this area and may reduce attention bias and thus symptoms experienced in SAD however there is still conflicting evidence about what is the optimum site for stimulation.

Materials and Methods

Does unilateral tDCS (anodal right DLPFC, cathode left deltoid) reduce anxiety during an online social interaction in individuals with moderate/severe anxiety?

Eligible participants were screened for Social Phobia levels of >15 indicating mild SAD symptoms. With both participants and researchers' condition-blinded (double-blind design), participants were randomly allocated to receive either 20 minutes of prefrontal, cerebellar (active control group) or sham (control group) tDCS prior to completing a social interactive task. This was a 5-minute online interaction, in the presence of 'observers', where participants were told to get know the other person on the call. The experimenter was instructed to give short answers to induce anxiety. PANAS (negative mood), GAD-7 (anxiety), heart rate and blood pressure were assessed.

Results

A 3 by 4 ANOVA showed anxiety did vary over time, irrespective of stimulation group ($F(3,186) = 30.99, p < .001$). However, crucially, anodal tDCS over the right DLPFC did not modify levels of anxiety during the social interaction significantly over time, contrary to our hypothesis ($F(6, 186) = 0.315, p = .928$).

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study showed there was no significant correlation between anodal stimulation over the right DLPFC and anxiety levels but there remains a clear need for more research studying the effect of tDCS on different areas of the brain. Future studies should look directly at stimulation of the left DLPFC. Based on the limitations of our study, further studies should use a larger sample size and aim to keep the same experimenter for the online interaction for consistency.



Climate Risk Governance and Sustainable Futures in ASEAN: Resilience Pathways and Policy Lessons from Malaysia

XiuKun Zheng¹, Mohd Hafizuddin Syah Bangaan Abdullah²

Affiliations

¹ Faculty of Economics & Management, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

² Faculty of Economics & Management, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

p126312@siswa.ukm.edu.my

m_hafiz@ukm.edu.my

Keywords

Climate risk governance, ASEAN climate resilience, ND-GAIN Index, EM-DAT disaster database, SDGs

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Southeast Asia is widely recognized as one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world, where frequent floods and landslides continuously test governance systems and pose serious threats to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although existing studies have provided valuable analyses at the regional or national levels, most are limited to vulnerability indices or localized adaptation experiences, lacking a comparative framework that can systematically connect regional indicators with national governance pathways, which restricts the policy application potential of academic outcomes. Based on this, the paper explores how climate risk governance can be transformed into sustainable futures and long-term policy effects, making it representative and policy-relevant at the ASEAN level. Malaysia, with relatively strong governance capacity yet long-term high exposure to floods and landslides, serves as a critical case study with broader regional implications.

Materials and Methods

This paper applies the "Resilience Pathways Framework" to empirical research in ASEAN, integrating two sets of key benchmarks for the ten ASEAN countries from 2010–2023: (i) the Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN) developed by the University of Notre Dame, which focuses on readiness and vulnerability, particularly the sub-dimensions of governance and ecosystem services; and (ii) the EM-DAT disaster database, which records the frequency and economic losses of floods and landslides, with loss indicators standardized by population and GDP to enhance cross-country comparability. The study adopts k-medoids clustering to identify governance-risk archetypes and employs locally weighted regression (LOESS) to draw governance gap maps to compare actual readiness with expected levels under disaster exposure. Finally, the results are mapped to specific SDG targets (especially 11.b, 13.1, and 13.2), thereby assessing policy alignment and sustainable development pathways.

Results

Clustering and gap analysis show that ASEAN countries fall into four governance-risk archetypes: high readiness–low vulnerability, high readiness–high exposure, medium readiness–rising exposure, and low readiness–high vulnerability. Malaysia frequently falls in the "high readiness–high exposure" archetype, highlighting the paradox of strong governance capacity despite persistent disaster losses. This result underscores the urgency of governance reforms, particularly in risk-sensitive land-use regulation, resilient infrastructure investment, climate finance mobilization, and community adaptation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The contributions of this paper are threefold: (i) methodological: transforming the "Resilience Pathways Framework" into a replicable empirical tool, systematically integrating ND-GAIN and EM-DAT, and bridging the gap between regional and national levels; (ii) empirical findings: identifying ASEAN's governance-risk archetypes and revealing the tension between governance improvement and disaster exposure, especially Malaysia's structural paradox; and (iii) policy: proposing differentiated policy pathways, including risk-sensitive land-use regulation, resilient infrastructure investment, climate finance, and community adaptation, thereby providing long-term value and policy insights for regional cooperation and sustainable development.



Magnitude of alcohol use disorder and treatment gap among adult population in Sundarharaicha Municipality, Nepal

Uma pradhan¹, Menuka Shrestha²

Affiliations

¹Department of Nursing, Purbanchal University School of Health Sciences, Gothgaun, Koshi Province, Nepal

²Head and Deputy Controller of Examination, Purbanchal University Office of the Examination Management, Koshi Province, Nepal

Corresponding Author Email

Umapradhan977@gmail.com

Keywords

Alcohol; AUDIT; hazardous drinking; treatment gap; community-based study; Nepal

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Alcohol Use Disorder is defined as problematic pattern of alcohol use. Globally alcohol use is considered as the seventh leading cause of mortality as well as morbidity (GBD 2016 Alcohol Collaborators, 2016). There is a huge treatment gap among problematic drinkers in Nepal. (Luitel et al., 2017). Treatment gap among problematic alcoholic users leads to poverty, other comorbid substance uses and mental disorders, unemployment and poor physical health. This study aimed to assess the magnitude of alcohol use disorder and to identify the treatment gap among adult population with alcohol use disorder in Sundarharaicha Municipality.

Materials and Methods

A community based cross-sectional study was conducted between August 2024 to July 2025. Total number of 560 adult population (≥ 18 years) participated in the study from selected four wards of Sundarharaicha Municipality. A standard tool developed by World Health Organization, Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) was used. Participants with AUDIT score 0-7 were considered non-problematic drinkers and participants with score 8-40 were considered problematic drinkers. A list of family members who met the eligibility criteria was obtained and one adult from each household was selected from the lottery method. Data was collected through interview method. Multiple regression analysis was done for statistically significant variables at 95% CI ($p \leq 0.05$) during bivariate analysis to determine factors associated with problematic alcohol use. Ethical clearance was obtained from Purbanchal University School of Health Sciences-Institutional Review Committee.

Results

The present study found 59.8% of the participants were the current drinkers. Among all the participants, 18.9% were categorized as problematic drinkers. Adults within age group 30-39 years, gender and marital status were significantly associated with problematic alcoholic consumption. Adults within age group 30-39 years were 2.59 times (AOR=2.59, CI=1.089-6.179) more likely to be problematic drinkers as compared to the adults of 60 years and above. Males were 9.175 times more likely to become problematic drinkers (AOR=9.175, CI=3.678-22.889) as compared to females. Furthermore, married adults have significantly lower odds (AOR: 0.23, CI: 0.063-0.832) of being problematic drinkers than the divorced/separated people. Majority 81.8% of the problematic drinkers had never sought treatment from any sources and only 18.2% had sought the treatment.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Alcohol use disorder is a common problem among adults and there was large treatment gap among them. Adult of age group of 30-39 years and male adults were likely to become problematic drinkers whereas married adults had lower risk of problematic drinking. Awareness and intervention to reduce alcohol consumption, screening programme, community-based services for treatment of problematic drinkers are recommended.



Investigating time to surgery in colorectal cancer patients, comparing intervals from referral and decision-to-treat between IV iron and non-iron groups.

Shahzeb Sheikh¹, Wassay Khan², Lisa Massey³

Affiliations

¹ Plastic Surgery, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham, UK

² College of Health and Science, University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK

³ Colorectal Surgery, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham, UK

Corresponding Author Email

shahzebsheikh@hotmail.com

Keywords

Health Service Delivery, Patient Pathway Optimization, Quality Improvement, Sustainable Healthcare Practice, Clinical Audit

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

National cancer guidelines mandate a maximum of 31 days from the decision to treat to surgical intervention and 62 days from urgent referral to cancer treatment (NHS England, 2023). However, patients requiring preoperative intravenous (IV) iron infusions for iron-deficiency anaemia may experience delays, risking target breaches and prolonged morbidity (Goddard, 2011). The aim was to investigate differences in time from diagnosis to surgery between colorectal cancer patients requiring IV iron infusion and those who did not, and to assess the effect of an intervention aimed at reducing delays.

Materials and Methods

This single-centre retrospective audit was conducted at a tertiary colorectal unit. Consecutive patients with newly diagnosed colorectal cancer undergoing primary surgical treatment were included. Patients receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or non-surgical management were excluded. Data were collected from electronic patient records and cancer tracking systems. A purposive sampling method was used, with the sampling frame including all surgical colorectal cancer patients.

A retrospective analysis was performed in the first cycle (n=68), comparing time intervals from urgent referral and decision-to-treat to surgery between patients requiring IV iron infusion and those who did not. Following identification of delays, a targeted intervention was introduced, incorporating routine iron testing at diagnostic colonoscopy or CT colonography and active monitoring of results by advanced care practitioners to expedite referrals for infusions. A second closed-loop audit (n=19) was conducted post-intervention to assess improvement. Statistical analysis included descriptive measures and non-parametric testing (Mann-Whitney U).

Results

In the first cycle, patients requiring iron infusions experienced longer delays than those not needing infusions (mean 56.1 vs. 27.9 days from decision-to-treat; and 144.1 vs. 101.9 days from urgent referral). Both groups breached national waiting time targets. Post-intervention, delays for infusion patients significantly decreased (mean 24.3 vs. 31.4 days from decision-to-treat; and 71.7 vs. 82.1 days from urgent referral). Notably, this reversed the pattern from the first cycle, as infusion patients experienced shorter delays than non-infusion patients. Breaches reduced in both groups.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This audit demonstrated that early identification and management of iron deficiency significantly reduced delays to colorectal cancer surgery, reversing previous trends of prolonged waiting times. Implementing routine iron testing and streamlined coordination improved compliance with national cancer targets. Future research should explore broader system-level factors to enhance sustainable, equitable cancer care pathways.



Retailers' Perspectives on the Adoption of Biodegradable Plastics in Northern Peninsular Malaysia

Lee Joo Keat¹, Govaichelvan Kumanan², Subramanian Bragadeeswaran³, Sarmila Muthukrishnan⁴, Kavita Chirara¹

Affiliations

¹Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, UCSI University, No. 1, UCSI Heights (Taman Connaught), Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

²Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

³Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipettai, 608 502 Tamil Nadu, India

⁴Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

kavita@ucsiuniversity.edu.my

Keywords

Biodegradable Plastics, Sustainability, Perceived Quality, Monetary Value, Switching Costs and Retails Adoption

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The global plastic pollution crisis has intensified efforts to adopt sustainable alternatives like biodegradable plastics, particularly in regions grappling with waste management challenges. The biodegradable plastics industry is emerging as a significant player, with materials that decompose efficiently and lessen environmental impact. In response to these environmental challenges, this study explores retailers' perceptions of biodegradable plastics in the Northern Region of Malaysia, encompassing Perlis, Kedah, Penang, and Perak.

Materials and Methods

A self-administered questionnaire, which consists of five sections of variables which are environmental knowledge (EK), perceived quality (PQ), monetary value (MV), switching costs (SC) and switching intention (SI) were used. A cross-sectional study adapting snowball sampling was conducted among 390 participants in 2023. The data was analysed using SPSS version 25. The data was tabulated using descriptive statistics, which consist of frequency and percentage. A Pearson correlation test was used to measure the association between variables.

Results

Overall results indicate a generally positive attitude towards biodegradable plastics, largely driven by environmental conscientiousness. The very strong correlation (0.832, $p < 0.01$) between perceived quality and monetary value suggests that retailers who perceive biodegradable plastics as high quality also recognise them as offering significant monetary value. The correlation between switching cost and switching intention (0.763, $p < 0.01$) is particularly insightful as it indicates that the willingness to invest in the costs associated with switching to biodegradable plastics. The remaining results indicated a positive moderate correlation between the variables, with all correlations statistically significant at $p < 0.01$. Specifically, EK and PQ correlated at 0.647, EK and MV at 0.597, EK and SC at 0.617, EK and SI at 0.637, PQ and SC at 0.637, PQ and SI at 0.678, MV and SC at 0.612, and MV and SI at 0.674.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Informed retailers are more inclined to value biodegradable plastics and shift from conventional options. The findings emphasize the importance of addressing financial barriers, enhance environmental education, and improve product reliability to accelerate adoption. This study offers actionable insights for policymakers and industry stakeholders to promote biodegradable plastics, aligning retail practices with sustainability goals.



Leading with emotion: Effects of Leader's Emotional Vocabulary on Employees – A Systematic Review

Carina Henzinger, BA.¹, Hon. Prof. (FH) Mag. (FH) Dr. Petra Heidler, Bed MSc MBA PhD1

Affiliations

¹ IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria

Corresponding Author Email

24IMC10328@fh-krems.ac.at

Keywords

Leadership communication, emotional vocabulary, psychological safety, employee engagement, systematic review

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Leadership communication plays a critical role in fostering psychological safety, engagement, and trust within organizations. While emotional intelligence and leadership styles have been widely studied, the linguistic mechanisms through which leaders express empathy, appreciation, or support remain underexplored. This study introduces leaders' emotional vocabulary, the intentional use of emotion-related words and phrases, as a codable, observable, and trainable form of leadership communication. By examining how emotional vocabulary influences employees' psychological and behavioral outcomes, this research links micro-level linguistic patterns with macro-level leadership effects.

Materials and Methods

This systematic literature review adheres to the PRISMA 2020 guidelines and is registered in PROSPERO (CRD420251047634). Peer-reviewed studies published between 2000 and 2025 in English will be identified across Scopus, Business Source Complete, and Emerald Insight, as systematic research on emotional and linguistic leadership communication emerged after 2000 with the development of digital corpora and language analysis tools (e.g., LIWC). The last database search was completed on October 8, 2025. The inclusion criteria target empirical studies that examine leaders' emotional vocabulary and its effects on employee outcomes. Motivating Language Theory and Affective Events Theory guide data extraction and coding. Study quality will be assessed using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT). Both qualitative thematic synthesis and quantitative meta-analysis (using linguistic metrics such as LIWC where applicable) will integrate evidence and test moderating effects of leadership styles and contextual factors.

Results

Preliminary database testing confirms the conceptual validity of the search strategy. Scopus yielded 373 and Emerald Insight 4,449 relevant records. Early screening reveals that, while the explicit term "emotional vocabulary" is rare, conceptually aligned studies appear under transformational, authentic, or servant leadership frameworks emphasizing emotionally expressive communication. These findings confirm the conceptual robustness of the search strategy and the need for systematic synthesis.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Primary evidence indicates that leaders' use of emotional vocabulary, especially words conveying empathy, appreciation, and support, improves employees' perceptions of psychological safety and engagement. Relationship-oriented leadership styles amplify these effects, whereas task-oriented styles may reduce them. This study advances leadership research by systematically reviewing existing evidence on leaders' emotional vocabulary, pinpointing key gaps in knowledge, and suggesting directions for future theoretical and practical development.



Resilience and Psychological Well-Being Among Undergraduate Nursing Students at Purbanchal University: A Cross-Sectional Study

Menuka Shrestha¹, Uma Pradhan², Dr. Pramila Thapa³

Author's Affiliations

¹ Associate Professor and Deputy Controller of Examinations, Purbanchal University, Morang, Nepal

² Associate Professor, Purbanchal University School of Health Sciences, Morang, Nepal

³ Research Director, Vidushi Yogmaya Himalayan Ayurveda University (YAU), Nepal

Corresponding Author Email

menakstha@gmail.com

menuka.shrestha@pushs.edu.np

Keywords

Resilience, Psychological well-being, Undergraduate Students

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Maintaining holistic well-being, including both physical and mental health, is essential for nursing students preparing to enter the profession. The demanding nature of nursing education, which combines rigorous theoretical coursework with practical clinical training, often exposes students to considerable stress and challenges. Resilience, defined as the ability to adapt to and recover from adversity, is a key factor that helps students cope effectively with these stressors. Understanding the relationship between resilience and psychological well-being is therefore critical for supporting nursing students' mental health. Thus, this study aimed to examine the association between resilience and psychological well-being among undergraduate nursing students at Purbanchal University.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted among undergraduate nursing students from randomly selected colleges of Purbanchal University to ensure institutional diversity. Within each selected college, students were recruited through convenience sampling based on their availability and willingness to participate, resulting in a total of 153 respondents. Data were collected via Google Forms using validated instruments, the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.85$) and the WHO Well-being Index (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.80$). Ethical approval was obtained from the PUSHS Institutional Review Committee, and data were analyzed using STATA version 13.

Results

The mean age of participants was 22.3 years ($SD \pm 3.9$), with the majority enrolled in the B.Sc. Nursing program (59.5%). Both resilience (mean = 25.43) and psychological well-being (mean = 14.41) were at moderate levels. Resilience scores differed significantly across colleges, with NCHST students scoring lower than those from PUSHS ($P = 0.05$). Psychological well-being also varied significantly by religion, as Kirat students reported lower scores compared to Hindu students ($P = 0.04$). A strong positive correlation was observed between resilience and psychological well-being ($P < 0.001$), suggesting that higher resilience is associated with better mental health. No other socio-demographic variables showed significant associations.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The study revealed a strong positive association between resilience and psychological well-being among nursing students, highlighting resilience as a key factor in maintaining mental health within academic and clinical challenges. Enhancing resilience through stress management training, counseling, and supportive learning environments is recommended. Nursing institutions should integrate resilience-promoting activities within their curricula to foster students' emotional stability, academic performance, and overall well-being. Future longitudinal or intervention studies are recommended to assess the long-term impact of such resilience-building initiatives and to explore causal relationships between resilience and psychological well-being.



Bridging Divides: An Analysis of Adaptive Inclusive Education in South African Higher Education and Global Contexts

RM Serathi Molokwane

Affiliation

Centre in Learning and Teaching, Durban University of Technology, Durban, South Africa.

Corresponding Author Email

revelationm@dut.ac.za

Keywords

Inclusive Education, Higher Education, South Africa, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Adaptive Pedagogy, Educational Equity

ABSTRACT

Introduction/ Background

This paper interrogates the conceptualisation and implementation of adaptive inclusive education within the South African higher education landscape. Against the backdrop of a complex socio-historical context defined by the legacies of apartheid, the study explores the systemic drivers, persistent barriers, and emergent models of practice. It extends this analysis to the broader African continent and draws comparative insights from international best practices.

Material and Methods

A comprehensive desktop review and thematic synthesis of existing literature was conducted. Desktop data was collected from a wide array of sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, national policy documents (e.g., South Africa's White Paper 6, DHET strategic plans), institutional reports from South African universities, and publications from international bodies such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Thematic analysis was employed to identify, analyse, and report on patterns within the data, focusing on policy frameworks, pedagogical approaches, technological integration, and institutional culture.

Results

The findings reveal a significant "policy-practice chasm" in South Africa, where progressive legislative frameworks often fail to translate into consistent, institution-wide implementation due to funding constraints, inadequate staff development, and deep-seated systemic inequalities. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is emerging as a dominant and promising pedagogical framework, though its adoption is uneven. Technology is identified as a double-edged sword, offering powerful tools for accessibility while simultaneously exacerbating the digital divide. A comparative analysis shows that while South Africa shares challenges of resource scarcity with other African nations, its unique post-apartheid context presents distinct hurdles. In contrast, international models from the Global North offer valuable lessons in systemic integration but must be adapted, not merely adopted, for local relevance.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The paper argues that advancing adaptive inclusive education requires a multi-pronged strategy. This includes strengthening the link between policy and funded mandates, embedding inclusive pedagogy into all academic professional development, fostering a whole-institution culture of belonging, and critically leveraging technology to bridge rather than widen equity gaps. It concludes that genuine inclusion is not a peripheral add-on but a core requirement for the social justice mission of higher education in South Africa and beyond.



Occupational Therapists' Perspectives on Psychosocial Enabling Strategies After Stroke: A Qualitative Study

Sakinah Rasli^{1,4}, Mazlina Mazlan¹, Adina Abdullah², Siti Noraini Asmuri³

Affiliations

¹Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Malaysia

²Department of Primary Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Malaysia

³Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

⁴Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Health Sciences, KPJ Healthcare University, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

sakinah@kpju.edu.my

Keywords

Stroke rehabilitation, Psychosocial interventions, Occupational therapy, Psychosocial rehabilitation, Mental health, Qualitative research

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Stroke survivors commonly experience psychosocial challenges, including emotional distress, social isolation, and reintegration difficulties with daily activities. Despite the important contribution of occupational therapy (OT) to stroke rehabilitation, psychosocial needs are understated. Empirical evidence on occupational therapy-led psychosocial interventions for stroke survivors remains limited, particularly in low- and middle-income (LMICs) and Southeast Asian contexts. The study aimed to explore occupational therapists' perceptions about addressing psychosocial challenges in stroke rehabilitation, highlighting key assessment methods, intervention strategies, and barriers to effective psychosocial rehabilitation.

Materials and Methods

This qualitative study adopted an interpretive paradigm and employed thematic analysis guided by Braun and Clarke's framework to explore the lived experiences and perspectives of occupational therapists working in stroke rehabilitation. Twelve occupational therapists (9 females, 3 males) with 3 to 17 years of experience were purposively sampled from public and private healthcare facilities, representing diverse practice backgrounds and clinical settings. Four focus group discussions (3–4 participants each) were conducted, lasting 60–90 minutes. All sessions were video recorded, transcribed verbatim, and manually checked for accuracy. Data collection continued until thematic saturation was achieved, and the Atlas.ti software version 23 was used to organize and analyze the data.

Results

Three primary themes emerged from analysis: (1) Therapeutic communication-occupational therapists emphasized the use of active listening, empathy, and narrative interviewing to facilitate greater patient participation and rapport; (2) Comprehensive psychosocial evaluation- the use of assessments for identifying emotional distress, loneliness, and coping problems; (3) Personalized intervention-Occupational therapists reported the application of cognitive-behavioral approaches, social-participation activities, and occupation based activities to promote affective well-being and reintegration. However, occupational therapists also reported significant challenges, such as limited awareness of the role of occupational therapy in psychosocial rehabilitation in a stroke rehabilitation setting, inadequate interdisciplinary collaboration, and a lack of structured psychosocial rehabilitation programs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Occupational therapists acknowledge the critical role of psychosocial interventions in stroke rehabilitation but encounter systemic barriers to their consistent implementation. Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration through standardized psychosocial screening within OT assessments, establishing interprofessional care protocols, allocating dedicated clinical time for occupational therapists to deliver psychosocial interventions, and enhancing their representation in multidisciplinary stroke rounds are key system-level actions to improve service delivery. This study is limited by its single-country context, small sample size, and reliance on self-reported data. Future research should involve multi-site or mixed-methods studies to evaluate and refine psychosocial enabling strategies across diverse rehabilitation settings.



Nutritional and Socio-Cultural Determinants of Stunting among Under-Five Children in Highland Rural Communities of Indonesia: The Role of Animal Protein Intake and Early Marriage

Dessya Putri Ayu¹, Faikatul Jannah², Alinea Dwi Elisanti³, Surya Dewi Puspita⁴, Putri Rahayu Ratri⁵, Miftahul Jannah⁶

Affiliations

^{1,2,3,4,5,6} Department of Clinical Nutrition, State Polytechnic of Jember, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

dessya.putri@polije.ac.id

Keywords

Animal Protein Intake, Maternal Age at Marriage, Stunting, Under-Five Children, Highland Communities

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Child stunting remains a persistent public health issue in Indonesia, particularly in highland rural communities where limited access to animal-based foods and early maternal marriage are common. These factors reflect intertwined nutritional and socio-cultural vulnerabilities that contribute to poor child growth outcomes. However, their combined influence on stunting has been insufficiently explored. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between animal protein intake and maternal age at marriage with stunting among under-five children in highland rural communities of East Java, Indonesia.

Materials and Methods

A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted among 84 mother-child pairs selected through simple random sampling in a highland rural area of East Java, Indonesia. The study population consisted of mothers with children aged 6–59 months. Dietary intake data were collected using a Semi Quantitative Food Frequency Questionnaire (SQ-FFQ), while maternal age at marriage was obtained through structured interviews. Child nutritional status was measured using height-for-age z-scores (HAZ) based on WHO Anthro standards. Statistical associations between animal protein intake, maternal age at marriage, and stunting were analyzed using the Chi-Square test, with significance set at $p < 0.05$.

Results

Almost one-third of the children (29.8%) were stunted, and more than half of the households (54.8%) reported low animal protein intake. Most mothers (71.4%) were married before the age of 21. A significant association was found between animal protein intake and stunting ($p = 0.021$). Field observations revealed that the highland community faced structural barriers to accessing animal-based foods due to economic limitations, distance from markets, and dependence on mobile vegetable vendors who rarely sold meat or fish. Meanwhile, early maternal marriage, although not significantly associated with stunting ($p = 1.000$), was linked to reduced maternal knowledge and caregiving capacity, reinforcing the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition within the community.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Both nutritional and socio-cultural determinants contribute to stunting in highland rural communities. Limited access to affordable animal protein and the persistence of early marriage collectively shape children's nutritional outcomes. Community-based nutrition education and reproductive health programs should be integrated to address these dual challenges. Strengthening local food systems and empowering young mothers through education and livelihood initiatives are crucial to achieving sustainable improvements aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals on Zero Hunger and Gender Equality.



The Dual Role of Influencers in Malaysian Women's Millennial Impulsive Buying: A Convergent Mixed Method

Chan Pee Ven¹, Wong Chee Hoo^{2,3,4}, Tan Seng Teck⁵ and Arasu Raman⁶

Affiliations

¹ School of Foundation Studies, Xiamen University Malaysia

² Faculty of Business and Communications, INTI International University Malaysia

³ Department of Economic Sciences, Wekerle Business School, Budapest, Hungary

⁴ International Institute of Management and Business, Belarus

⁵ Faculty of Business and Communications, INTI International University Malaysia

⁶ International Relations Collaboration Centre, INTI International University Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

peeven.chan@xmu.edu.my; cpven1@gmail.com

Keywords

Consumer behaviour, human and health, impulsive buying, impulse buying, influencers, millennial women.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Impulsive buying among Millennials is increasing in the digital marketplace, undermining financial resilience and sustainable consumption. While prior studies have examined product cues or social influences in isolation, little is known about their combined effects on perceived quality, brand awareness, and influencers. Guided by the Stimulus-Organism-Response (S-O-R) framework and supported by the Elaboration Likelihood Model (ELM) and Heuristic-Systematic Mode (HSM), this study investigated how these factors interact to influence impulsive buying behaviour, with influencers positioned as both mediators and persuasive commercial actors.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional convergent mixed-methods design was used. A total of 390 survey respondents aged between 24-44 years from a convenience sample to test hypothesized relationships among perceived quality, brand awareness, influencers' impact, and impulsive buying. Another 20 interviewees were taken from the same sets to explore consumer experiences for contextual insights. Findings were integrated through triangulation to strengthen validity and interpretive depth.

Results

Influencers' impact was the only factor with a direct, significant effect on impulsive buying. Influencers also partially mediated the relationship between brand awareness and unplanned purchasing. Qualitative findings confirmed these results, showing that influencers function as persuasive figures and as intermediaries linking brand familiarity with purchase decisions.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The findings highlight the central role of influencers in driving spontaneous purchases and reinforce dual-process models of consumer decision-making. Marketers and influencers are encouraged to adopt responsible communication strategies that balance promotion with consumer well-being. At the same time, consumer education on persuasive tactics can foster more intentional and financially sustainable purchasing behaviours.



Cultivating Sustainable Social and Emotional Competence: Phenomenological Insights from Multi-Ethnic Students in Inner Mongolia

Mingqi SUN¹, Siaw Leng CHAN², Karmilah Abdullah³, Sharon Yong Yee ONG⁴

Affiliations

Faculty of Humanities, Management and Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 97008 Bintulu, Sarawak

Corresponding Author Email

sunmingqi98@163.com

Keywords

Social and Emotional Competence; Multi-Ethnic Education; Phenomenology; Culturally Responsive Pedagogy; Inner Mongolia.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

In today's interconnected world, developing social and emotional competence (SEC) among adolescents is essential for promoting resilience, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding. In Inner Mongolia, where Han, Mongolian, and other ethnic groups coexist, schools face the unique challenge of fostering SEC in a multilingual, culturally diverse environment. While Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) has been widely researched in Western contexts, there is limited qualitative evidence on how SEC is experienced and sustained among students in minority regions of China. This study aims to explore how multi-ethnic high school students in Inner Mongolia perceive, develop, and sustain SEC within their educational and social environments.

Materials and Methods

Excellent by using Robust methodology: phenomenology with Colaizzi's method, multiple data sources (interviews, observations, journals). Data were collected from May to July 2025 in two multi-ethnic public high schools in Inner Mongolia. Fifteen students (8 female, 7 male; ages 16–18) from different ethnic backgrounds were recruited through purposive sampling. The sample size was determined based on phenomenological research principles, which emphasize depth rather than breadth of understanding. Fifteen participants were sufficient to achieve data saturation and allow for rich, detailed descriptions of lived experiences, while remaining manageable for in-depth qualitative analysis. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in Mandarin or Mongolian, depending on participants' preference, and supplemented by classroom observations and reflective journals. Transcripts were analyzed inductively, identifying themes related to interpersonal relationships, cultural identity, emotional regulation, and resilience-building.

Results

Four major themes emerged: (1) Cultural Bridging—students described peer interactions as opportunities to learn each other's languages and customs, enhancing mutual respect; (2) Emotional Navigation—students highlighted strategies such as peer support and teacher guidance for managing stress in academic and intercultural contexts; (3) Resilience Through Diversity—exposure to multiple cultural perspectives was perceived as strengthening adaptability and problem-solving skills; (4) Barriers to Sustaining SEC—including limited culturally responsive teaching practices and occasional language-based misunderstandings. Students emphasized that sustained SEC required both individual effort and systemic support from teachers and school policies.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Findings indicate that SEC development in multi-ethnic contexts is shaped by daily intercultural interactions and supported by culturally responsive pedagogy. These insights can inform China's minority education policies by promoting inclusive and culturally attuned SEL practices, while also contributing to global SEL frameworks that emphasize intercultural understanding. Schools should integrate SEL through bilingual materials, peer mentoring, and teacher training in cultural competence.



Determinants of Finance Career Aspirations among Female University Students in Austria: A Cross-Sectional Study

Romana Hammer, MIB, MA. ^{1,2,3,4}

Affiliations

¹ HR Specialist, Human Resources, Erste Asset Management GmbH, Vienna, Austria

² Graduate, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria

³ University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia

⁴ Graduate, FH Wien der WKW University of Applied Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Corresponding Author Email

romana.hammer.22@gmail.com

Keywords

Gender gap, Finance, Women, Career aspirations, Male dominance, Gender stereotype

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The finance industry exhibits significant gender disparities in roles, decision-making power, and compensation, placing women at a disadvantage. These inequalities are particularly pronounced in Austria, where the gender pay gap ranked as the second highest in Europe in 2023 and is the largest nationally within the finance sector. To investigate the entry barriers that women face in this industry, this study examines how personal, organizational, and social factors affect the finance career aspirations of female students, as they are in their formative career development and thereby extending current discussions on gender inequality in the finance sector.

Materials and Methods

A quantitative, cross-sectional research approach was selected, with data collected through an online questionnaire consisting of 30 questions. The primary questions utilized a seven-point Likert scale. The target population included Austrian female students from all fields of study without age limitation, resulting in a sample size of 100 participants over a six-week survey period. The data was analyzed using the Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD) process. Two statistical methods were applied for data mining: a factor analysis to identify underlying latent variables, followed by an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and a Kruskal-Wallis test to analyze the differences between the identified groups.

Results

The factor analysis showed the association of variables with five factors, each representing underlying factors: aspects within the personal sphere, aspects within the company sphere, authenticity at work in terms of feminine traits, perceptions of one's abilities to work in the finance industry, and the type of life goals chosen. The results indicate that demographic characteristics influence the finance career aspirations of female students. Previous touchpoints with and interest in finance, as well as studying a finance major, showed a positive impact, while the presence of finance professionals in the social sphere had a negative influence related to company-sphere factors such as gender pay gap, gender discrimination, and lack of role models.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Personal beliefs and authenticity were perceived as neutral influences, while company-related aspects were seen as negative for pursuing a finance career. To enhance women's participation in finance, stakeholders—particularly employers—should address gender pay inequality, discrimination, and visible role models. Limitations include the convenience sample, self-report measures, cross-sectional design, modest sample size, and Austria-specific context. Future research should use larger, stratified national samples, longitudinal tracking of students' intentions and career entry, and experimental interventions (e.g., mentoring or role-model programs).



Development of Rainfall Erosivity Factor (R-factor) Map for Sabah

Muhammad Sadiq Syarafuddin Bin Siraja¹, Joash Kai Heng Wang², Athanasius Vincent Anak William³, Siraja Bin Bashora⁴, Samuel Lik Gin Law⁵, Leong Kong Yong⁶

Affiliations

^{1,2,3,6} Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, Curtin University Malaysia, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

⁴ Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

⁵ P.L. Consultants, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

yongleongkong@curtin.edu.my muhd_sadiq@rocketmail.com

Keywords

R-factor, Rainfall, Erosivity, Soil Erosion, RUSLE, Sabah

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Rainfall erosivity factor (R-factor) is one of the parameters in Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), which significantly related to rainfall kinetic energy and rainfall intensity. R-factor map had been developed to ease the process of soil erosion estimation, where users can adopt the R-factor from the map into their soil loss calculation. In Malaysia, R-factor map for West-Malaysia had been developed and published in Urban Stormwater Management Manual (MSMA) 2nd Edition by Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia. However, the MSMA 2nd Edition did not include the R-factor map for East-Malaysia, and suggested to use a generalized R-factor of 20,000 MJ•mm/ha•hr•yr for entire region of Sabah. The aim of this study is to develop rainfall erosivity factor (R-factor) map for Sabah region.

Materials and Methods

This study adopted quantitative geospatial technique, where 20 years of 30-minute rainfall data ranged from January 2005 to December 2024 were obtained from DID Sabah branch. R-factors of total 54 rainfall stations in Sabah were computed using RUSLE's R-factor equation, and later plotted R-factor map using Visual Studio Code software. The Python open-source libraries such as pandas, geopandas, matplotlib, and pykrige were used to process, analyze, and spatially interpolate the data in Visual Studio Code software. Ordinary Kriging interpolation method was used to find estimations of R-factor values in unsampled regions, which resulted to a continuous isoerodent map of Sabah.

Results

The values of R-factor in Sabah were found to be in a range of 1,200 to 6,200 MJ•mm/ha•hr•yr, which showed huge difference from the suggested R-factor for East-Malaysia in the MSMA 2nd Edition. The highest R-factor values were located in the western part of Sabah especially Beaufort, Papar, Penampang. However, eastern coastal areas such as Tawau, Lahad Datu, and Semporna had less erosivity. The calculated values were significantly less than the generalized 20,000 MJ•mm/ha•hr•yr in the MSMA 2nd Edition (2012).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The R-factor map for Sabah was successfully developed in this study. The Sabah R-factor map provides more accurate soil loss amount estimation that shall be included in MSMA. The new developed R-factor provides a better reference for decision-makers in their land-use plans, watershed management, and soil conservation planning.



The Impact of Endometriosis on Work Performance and Work Environment: A PRISMA-Guided Systematic Review

Lisa Oberhofer, MA¹, Dr. Petra Heidler PhD²

Affiliations

¹ Graduate, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria

² Institute International Business and Economics, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria

Corresponding Author Email

lisakatharina.oberhofer@gmail.com

Keywords

Endometriosis, Work Environment, Work Performance, Recommendations for Employers

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Endometriosis, affecting one in ten or approximately 10% of women worldwide, is a chronic condition causing widespread symptoms and pain, yet remains under-researched and undervalued. This review synthesizes current evidence on its impact on women's work performance and workplace experiences, including studies on both diagnosed and suspected cases. It aims to consolidate organizational and management-related insights and propose evidence-based employer interventions to better support affected women.

Materials and Methods

To summarize and synthesize the existing literature, a systematic two-review literature screening approach has been chosen, following the PRISMA 2020 statement to minimize the risk of bias and ensure research quality. For the research, three databases—EBSCO, Google Scholar, and Science Direct—were used. Additionally, artificial intelligence was utilized through the tool Elicit. The search was limited to articles published in English in peer-reviewed journals to ensure high-quality results. In total, 34 papers published worldwide between 2004 and 2024 were included in the review. The review sample comprised studies with qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches, as well as systematic and narrative reviews.

Results

The results of the content analysis show that endometriosis negatively affects work performance and productivity for various reasons. While the estimated loss of work productivity due to endometriosis is approximately 8.35 hours per week, the impact of endometriosis on the work environment cannot be easily quantified in numbers. However, it becomes clear that living with endometriosis interferes with women's working lives and often leads to the need for sick leave or an inability to perform within their desired profession, which significantly impacts the work environment. Additionally, endometriosis influences the team dynamic, as it is frequently trivialized or disbelieved by managers and colleagues, leading to discrimination, misjudgements of performance, and stigmatization.

Limitations

This research is limited by the restricted scope of databases, language, and publication type, which may have led to the exclusion of relevant literature. Moreover, the shortened research period and the complex, multifaceted nature of endometriosis constrain the comprehensiveness of the findings and the inclusion of broader influencing factors such as family, financial status, and psychological wellbeing.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Endometriosis adversely affects women's work performance and workplace experiences, with impacts varying by disease severity and symptom burden. Implementing flexible work arrangements, remote options, counseling, and gender-sensitive policies can alleviate productivity losses and reduce workplace stigma. However, research gaps persist, highlighting the need for prospective cohort studies, workplace intervention trials, standardized use of tools such as WPAI and WLQ, and evaluations of the cost-effectiveness of workplace accommodations.



Effectiveness of CWIE Integration in Cambodian Higher Education: An Explanatory Sequential Study

Sereyrath Em¹, Buratin Khampirat²

Affiliation

^{1,2}Institute of Social Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima, Suranaree University of Technology (SUT), Thailand

Corresponding Author Emails

¹sereyrathem.edu@gmail.com, ²buratink@sut.ac.th

Keywords

Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education (CWIE), Cambodian Higher Education, Employability Skills, University-Industry Collaboration, Curriculum Integration

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education (CWIE) is becoming more significant in higher education worldwide to prepare graduates for constantly changing labor markets. CWIE is being introduced into Cambodian higher institutions to improve relevance and university-industry collaboration, although empirical evidence is lacking. This study uses an explanatory sequential mixed-methods design to evaluate how well CWIE supports students' academic, professional, and personal growth while meeting institutional and national goals. The quantitative phase includes a survey of 600 students, teachers, and employers from four Cambodian universities, both in the capital and the provinces, plus 20 qualitative interviews and focus groups to broaden the findings. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data, and thematic and content analysis were employed to analyze qualitative data. CWIE is perceived as helpful in improving employability skills by 72% of students and 65% of employers ($M = 4.12$, $SD = 0.58$; $p < 0.05$), but curriculum misalignment remains considerable ($\chi^2 = 24.7$, $p < 0.01$). Qualitative themes highlighted weak institutional support, industry participation, and monitoring, but also suggested greater relationships and reflective learning. Thus, identifying Cambodian CWIE strengthening paths influences policy, practice, and future studies.

Introduction

The rising demand for adept graduates capable of adjusting to swiftly evolving labor market requirements has underscored the significance of Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education (CWIE) within global higher education systems (World Association for Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education [WACE], 2019). In Cambodia, CWIE is progressively being taken into consideration and integrated into higher education institutions as part of national initiatives to improve the pertinence of higher education and to fortify university-industry connections (World Bank, 2020). Nonetheless, there is a paucity of empirical information concerning the efficacy of CWIE integration in Cambodian higher education institutions (Em & Phann, 2024). Thus, this study aims to examine the degree to which CWIE facilitates students' academic, professional, and personal growth, in addition to its congruence with institutional objectives and national policies.

Materials and Methods

The current study uses an explanatory sequential mixed-methods design (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). The first phase employed a quantitative survey administered to undergraduate students, faculty members, and employers at four selected Cambodian universities in both the capital city and the provinces in Cambodia. The study evaluates the perceptions of CWIE integration, emphasizing its efficacy in enhancing students' employability chances, linking theory with practice, and meeting labor market requirements. The subsequent phase entails qualitative interviews, using semi-structured ones, and focus group discussions with selected stakeholders to clarify the patterns identified in the survey (Fraenkel et al., 2019). This phase examines the planning, implementation, and evaluation of CWIE within the universities, as well as the challenges and opportunities associated with enhancing CWIE integration. The samples of the current study consisted of 600 for the quantitative phase and 20 for the qualitative phase. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data, and thematic and content analysis for qualitative data.



The following key questions guide the study:

- (1) To what extent is CWIE effectively integrated into Cambodian higher education?
- (2) What are the perceived benefits of CWIE from the perspectives of students, faculty members, and employers?
- (3) What challenges hinder the successful implementation of CWIE?
- (4) What strategies can enhance CWIE integration to support graduate employability and institutional goals better?

Results

The results of the current study encompass delivering empirical evidence about the strengths and limits of existing CWIE practices in Cambodia, elucidating discrepancies between policy and implementation, and proffering recommendations for policymakers, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders. The findings also seek to enhance the broader discussion on higher education reform in developing nations, highlighting the essential role of CWIE in promoting employability, innovation, and sustainable development.

Initial quantitative results indicate that 72% of students and 65% of employers favor CWIE as significantly successful in enhancing employability skills ($M = 4.12$, $SD = 0.58$; $p < 0.05$). Faculty and employers indicate intermediate congruence between CWIE procedures and labor market requirements, with notable deficiencies in curriculum design ($\chi^2 = 24.7$, $p < 0.01$). Qualitative themes underscore constraints such as poor institutional support, restricted industry involvement, and insufficient monitoring systems, while opportunities encompass enhancing university-industry collaborations and incorporating reflective learning methodologies. These findings demonstrate the benefits and weaknesses of CWIE integration in Cambodian higher education.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Accordingly, the findings indicate that although CWIE shows significant promise in improving graduate employability, deficiencies persist in curriculum alignment, institutional support, and industry participation. Increasing cooperative education opportunities among universities, industry, and government is crucial for the efficacy and sustainability of CWIE. In any case, future studies should investigate the long-term effects of CWIE on graduate outcomes and evaluate scalable models suitable for the Cambodian higher education context. This could also guide prospective policy modifications and inspire innovative approaches to reimagining higher education-industry cooperation in Cambodia.



Mental health of employees with a focus on personal protective equipment and gender equality - A Systematic Review

Michael Grech MSc MBA ^{1,2}, Hon Prof.(FH) Mag.(FH) Dr. Petra Heidler Bed MSc MBA PhD ²

Affiliations

¹ Saint Elisabeth University Bratislava, Slovakia

² Institute International Trade and Sustainable Economy, University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria

Corresponding Author Email

michael.grech@imc.ac.at

Keywords

occupational safety, mental health, gender equality, personal protective equipment (PPE)

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Research background shows that occupational health and safety (OHS) is a key priority in public health. The UN emphasizes the integration of gender considerations to ensure equal protection and access to resources for all employees. The WHO has established health protection measures in occupational safety, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include objectives related to health, well-being, and occupational safety. This research aims to summarize recent findings on employer occupational safety measures, with a focus on personal protective equipment (PPE) and its impact on employees' mental health, including its implications for gender equality.

Materials and Methods

The methodology is a systematic review using relevant databases. The guideline PRISMA is used to ensure that the reporting of the review is transparent and complete as well as the framework PICOC is applied for determined and comprehensible inclusion criteria. The systematic review has been registered at PROSPERO (CRD42024514412).

Results

The results demonstrate that PPE is essential for protecting employees and enhancing safety. The evaluation of the systematic review shows that aspects such as differences in the (gender-specific) physiognomy of employees are not sufficiently considered. The review identifies 23 studies that address not only physical effects such as headaches, heat stress, PPE-related injuries, functional limitations (e.g., vision), and work environment effects (e.g., long shifts), but also psychological effects such as stress, anxiety, and depression (with high prevalence), burnout, cognitive impairment, reduced concentration, and reduced (work) performance. The results reveal a paradox: PPE protects but can itself become a stress factor due to physical discomfort and perceived inadequacies.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Despite existing limitations, such as the focus of the identified studies on the pandemic period and the resulting skewing of the sector toward the healthcare sector, in conclusion, the negative effects of PPE can be mitigated, particularly through the provision of suitable and appropriate PPE. These measures enhance the perceived safety, which ultimately has a positive impact on the mental health, performance, and overall well-being of employees. In addition to training in the use of PPE, ensuring a good fit is therefore an essential aspect of a holistic approach to effective occupational safety and health protection, which, according to the UN and its SDGs, is an essential component of equitable and sustainable global development.



Corporate Sustainability Insight into Comparative ESG Performance in EU and Non-EU Trade Framework: Austria, Germany and Switzerland

Benjamin Treitler^{1,2}

Affiliations

¹PhD Student Doctorate Paneuropean Studies – Eisenstadt, Austria

²Graduate, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria

Corresponding Author Email

benjamin.treitler@gmail.com

Keywords

ESG, International Trade, Corporate Sustainability, Institutional Theory, Stakeholder Theory, Comparative Analysis

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The increase in the inclusion of sustainability stipulations in international trade contracts is an indication of a paradigm shift in the global economic regulation. Even though previous research has investigated environmental and social impact of trade, there are few research studies that have empirically tested the contribution of specific trade structures in defining the firm-level ESG performance in various institutional environments. On the one hand, this doctoral research paper focuses on evaluating how EU and non-EU trade agreements could influence the corporate sustainability practices in small, developed economies- Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The research question is mainly to establish how trade systems mediate between integrated and independent regulatory systems competitiveness and policy diffusion related to ESG compliance.

Materials and Methods

The paper followed a mixed-methods research design that included a systematic review of the literature conducted according to PRISMA 2020 and a quantitative analysis of panel data from 2015-2025. The systematic literature review followed PRISMA 2020 standard, covering publications from 2015-2025 in Scopus, Web of Science and JSTOR. The screening process applied clear inclusion and exclusion criteria, focusing on peer-reviewed English language studies related to ESG and international trade. The data sources included CSRHub, Orbis, Eurostat, OECD and the World Bank. Findings from the systematic literature review were used to identify key variables and conceptual relationships, which then informed the development of six hypotheses for the quantitative phase. Empirical tests were conducted using regression modelling and the structural equation modelling (SEM) to test six hypotheses regarding the trade exposure, the regulatory stringency, and the ESG performance. The center of analysis was Austria and Germany and Switzerland were the comparative standards of the EU and non-EU models.

Results

These findings suggest that the EU trade systems such as EU-Canada CETA and EU-Japan, EPA possess high institutional and regulatory pressure that enhances implementation of ESG in Austria and Germany. On the other hand, non-EU bilateral structure in Switzerland promotes voluntary conformity with ESG principles that are largely driven by the market, investors and reputational aspects. The statistical results demonstrate that a high level of trade integration, institutional enforcement, and the ESG results are positively correlated which demonstrates the idea that trade agreements are the tools for spreading the sustainability norms. In addition, cross-country variations also underscore the fact that regulatory intensity and the stakeholder relationships have a combined impact on corporate ESG maturity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The paper has discovered that trade agreements are strategic tools for inculcating sustainability standards in global value chains. EU frameworks provide relatively more stable regulatory environments which are conducive to ESG compliance than non-EU environments which are founded on market-based adjustments. The results are relevant to Institutional, Stakeholder and Global Value Chain Theory because they prove that the institutional interdependence affects the sustainability trajectories in small open economies. Policymakers are advised to strike a balance between the sustainability conditions in trade agreements and provide SME-based support in realizing ESG objectives. Future researchers should take into account this comparative analysis with other emerging economies and assess long-term impacts of ESG beyond Europe.



Reimagining Dewey: Lifelong Learning as Cultural Practice and Social Engagement

Hu Aina ^{1,2}, Sharmin Kutty Sivaraman³, Lei Jin Xia⁴, Huang Cheng Mei⁵

Affiliations

¹⁻⁵ Faculty of Education & Liberal Arts, INTI International University, Nilai Malaysia

² Geely University, Institute of Marxism Sinchuan China

Corresponding Author Email

sharminkutty.sraman@newinti.edu.my

Keywords

Dewey, culture, lifelong learning, integration, experience

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Materials and Methods

Using a qualitative interpretive approach, the paper analyzes Dewey's key concepts experience, continuity, and reflective practice within the framework of cultural theory and social participation. Drawing on textual analysis of Dewey's writings and selected secondary literature, the study reveals how his philosophy anticipates contemporary concerns such as fragmented learning paths, civic disengagement, and educational inequity.

Results

By situating Dewey's pragmatism within broader cultural and societal discourses, this research contributes to ongoing debates in the humanities about the role of education in shaping identity, agency, and collective responsibility.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The findings underscore the relevance of Dewey's thought in guiding inclusive and culturally responsive lifelong learning practices.



Intercultural Communication Competence: Building Culture in a Globalized Society

Huang Cheng Mei ^{1,2}, Sharmin Kutty Sivaraman³, Lei Jin Xia⁴

Affiliations

^{1,3} Faculty of Education & Liberal Arts, INTI International University, Nilai Malaysia

² Guang Xi Science & Technology Normal University China

Corresponding Author Email

sharminkutty.sraman@newinti.edu.my

Keywords

communication, culture, society, understanding, cultural integration

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate effectively across cultural boundaries has become the important skills for fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. This paper will discuss the concept of intercultural communication competence as key driver of the cultural bridging in diverse societies.

Materials and Methods

This paper will be using method case studies and theoretical frameworks to demonstrate how intercultural communication competence to the social cohesion, inclusive dialogue, and the connection to globalized society

Results

It also argues that fostering such competence is not only a personal asset but the most important part for societal imperative in the cultural harmony and global citizenship. Besides that, intercultural communication among culture is so much important in building the well-being society.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study expands the concept of ICC by proposing a cultural and societal understanding. It also offers educational design and policy implications for doctoral training within the context of internationalization of higher education.



Navigating Cultural Boundaries: Challenges and Strategies of Chinese Students in Malaysia Cross Cultural Education

Lei Jin Xia ¹, Sharmin Kutty Sivaraman², Huang Cheng Mei³

Affiliations

¹⁻³ Faculty of Education & Liberal Arts, INTI International University, Nilai Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

sharminkutty.sraman@newinti.edu.my

Keywords

education, cross-cultural, exchange, challenges, strategies, cultural

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

In the globalized academic landscape, cross cultural education has become a very famous component in higher learning education. This type of cross-cultural education not only will able to give students the opportunity to know about their own matters but also able the students to understand other culture well. This paper will explore lived experiences of Chinese student from China pursuing education in Malaysia, focusing on the cultural challenges they encounter and the strategies they able to adapt.

Materials and Methods

In this paper methodology will be used is qualitative interview method with thematic analysis few key points can be identify from this such as language barriers, differing classroom norms and social integration difficulties that have shaped their educational journey

Results

In this paper also indicated the role of institutional support is very much important for student. By situating the findings within the broader context of intercultural communication and identity formation this research able to contributes the deeper understanding of how cultural diversity influences educational outcomes between both countries.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The insights gained offer practical implications for educators, policy makers and institutions aiming to foster the inclusive towards culturally responsive learning environments



Bridging the Gap: A Cross-Sectional Needs Assessment to Co-design a Relocation and Induction Guide for IMG GP Trainees in Nottingham

Dr Abdel Motaleb Moukalled ¹

Affiliation

¹ Nottingham Postgraduate Education Centre, Nottingham GP Training Program (trainee), Nottingham, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author Email

Abdelmotaleb.moukalled@nhs.net

Keywords

International Medical Graduates (IMGs), General Practice Training, Relocation Support, Induction and Transition, Medical Education, Wellbeing and Integration

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) form an essential part of the NHS workforce but often face challenges beyond clinical adaptation, particularly with relocation, administrative processes, and community integration (GMC, 2022; NHS England, 2023). Initial feedback from IMG GP trainees in Nottingham highlighted that while clinical induction is provided, support for personal and practical settlement is limited. This study aimed to assess these needs and use the findings to co-design a structured relocation and induction guide tailored to the Nottingham GP Training Program.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional online survey was conducted between 23 September and 14 October 2025 among all IMG GP trainees who commenced training in 2024 and remained active in the Nottingham program. Invitations were distributed via the program administrator and local trainee social media groups, achieving an estimated response rate of 40%.

The survey explored induction experiences, relocation challenges, and access to local support. Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively, and free-text responses were thematically coded to identify key priorities for intervention.

Results

Twenty-five trainees completed the survey, representing a diverse range of countries of primary medical qualification. Most respondents attended standard Trust or GP Practice inductions, rated moderately useful (mean 3–4 / 5). However, 64% reported no practical support with relocation, and 52% rated overall transition support as poor or very poor.

Major challenges included finding accommodation, opening bank accounts, registering with a GP, and navigating NHS administrative systems. Trainees emphasized the need for early, clear, and localized guidance on these processes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This survey identified a clear deficit in relocation and settlement support for IMG GP trainees within Nottingham. In response, a Nottingham IMG Relocation and Induction Guide is being co-developed, addressing key logistical and informational needs identified in this study.

While limited by its single-deanery scope and modest response rate, the findings have already informed regional discussions, with East Midlands "New to NHS" leads adopting this guide as a prototype for development across other deaneries. Impact will be evaluated through repeat surveys measuring outcomes such as time to GP registration, time to open a bank account, and early confidence in navigating NHS systems.



Profiling Psychological Well-Being and Self-Compassion among Secondary School Teachers in Sarawak: A Descriptive Psychometric Analysis

Siaw Leng Chan¹, Fong Peng Lim²

Affiliations

¹Department of Social Science and Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia Sarawak, Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia

²Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

chansiawleng@upm.edu.my

Keywords

Profiling, Psychological Well-Being, Self-Compassion, Teachers, Sarawak

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Teacher well-being is increasingly critical amid global concerns over burnout and attrition. Self-compassion, linked to resilience and mental health, remains underexplored in Southeast Asia. Considering Sarawak's diverse multicultural makeup, concepts like self-compassion and well-being should be understood within culturally specific frameworks that emphasise communal harmony, emotional control, and indigenous knowledge. This requires developing culturally tailored psychometric tools and interventions to ensure validity and practicality. This study investigates the distribution and psychometric properties of psychological well-being and self-compassion among secondary school teachers in Sarawak, with a focus on demographic variations in a multicultural context.

Materials and Methods

This cross-sectional study was conducted among 826 secondary school teachers across Sarawak, Malaysia, using a stratified convenience sampling approach to ensure representation of diverse demographic and professional backgrounds. Psychological well-being was assessed using an adapted version of the Ryff Psychological Well-Being Scale, comprising six domains, while self-compassion was measured using Neff's revised Self-Compassion Scale with six subcomponents. Both instruments were translated and culturally adapted using back-translation protocols and pilot testing to ensure semantic validity and relevance for Malaysian education. Data were collected via structured self-administered questionnaires. Descriptive statistics and Cronbach's alpha were used to evaluate distribution patterns and internal consistency. Demographic variables were analysed to explore subgroup differences using IBM SPSS Version 29.0.

Results

Descriptive analysis revealed that the majority of teachers scored within the normal range of psychological well-being across all six domains, though variance was evident across demographic groups. The highest mean PWB scores were found in CS4 (Positive Relations, $M = 4.471$) and CS5 (Purpose in Life, $M = 4.371$), indicating relational and existential strengths among participants. For self-compassion, the majority ($n = 538$) were classified within the moderate range, with 281 in the high range and only 7 in the low range. Cronbach's alpha values for SCS subscales ranged from 0.667 (Self-Judgment) to 0.820 (Mindfulness), indicating acceptable to good internal consistency. Similarly, PWB subscales ranged from 0.271 (Environmental Mastery) to 0.743 (Positive Relations), with some subscales showing marginal reliability, warranting further validation. Demographic insights indicated that female teachers (74.6%) were overrepresented, with the majority aged between 31 and 50 years. Teachers with longer service durations (>20 years) tended to report higher self-acceptance and autonomy scores. A notable ethnic diversity was observed, with significant representation from the Malay, Chinese, and Iban communities.



Conclusions and Recommendations

This study reveals that most secondary school teachers in Sarawak demonstrate healthy psychological well-being, particularly in relational and purpose-driven domains, with moderate self-compassion aligning with global findings. However, notable demographic and cultural variations suggest the need for context-sensitive mental health initiatives. Preliminary data suggests that younger teachers and those early in their careers might score lower in areas like environmental mastery and self-kindness, likely due to transitional stress and adjustment to roles. Lower internal consistency in specific subscales, such as Environmental Mastery, highlights the importance of culturally validating psychological instruments. It may benefit from cultural adjustment, including the integration of locally relevant concepts such as role fluidity, hierarchical respect, and interdependence. It is recommended that teacher support programs integrate mindfulness and self-compassion training, while future research adopts longitudinal and mixed-method designs. Locally adapted assessment tools are crucial for ensuring accurate measurement and effective intervention across Malaysia's diverse educational landscape.



Improving the documentation of communication with patients' next of kins on the Older People Services wards at Ipswich Hospital

Dr Yee Mon Wint¹, Dr Sein Hlaing¹, Dr Francis Enebe¹, Dr Sobia Saghir¹

Affiliations

¹ Older People Services, Ipswich Hospital, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT), Ipswich, UK

Corresponding Author Email

YeeMon.Wint@esneft.nhs.uk

Keywords

Next of Kin Communication, Documentation, Quality Improvement, Older People Services

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Clear and timely communication with patients' next of kin (NoK) is fundamental to patient-centred care, ensuring transparency, shared understanding, and trust between families and healthcare professionals. Within Older People Services (OPS) wards, where patients often experience frailty, cognitive decline, and complex decision-making, documenting such communication is crucial for clinical governance and patient care. A baseline audit across four OPS wards at Ipswich Hospital revealed that documentation of NoK discussions was inconsistent—recorded in only 61.5% of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions (n=52) and 22% of high National Early Warning Score (NEWS ≥ 5) cases (n=9). This quality improvement (QI) project aimed to raise both metrics to $\geq 80\%$ by August 2025.

Materials and Methods

Using the Model for Improvement framework, the multidisciplinary team implemented two Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles following a baseline audit (April-June 2024).

PDSA Cycle 1 (May 2025): Educational posters were displayed across all OPS wards to promote the importance of documenting NoK communication. A re-audit was undertaken in June, reviewing DNACPR discussions (n=72) and high NEWS cases (n=6).

PDSA Cycle 2 (July 2025): The intervention was expanded to include a structured departmental teaching session followed by ward-based mini-awareness sessions during morning board rounds. A subsequent re-audit assessed documentation compliance for DNACPR (n=52) and high NEWS discussions (n=5).

Results

The initial poster campaign achieved a marked improvement: documentation rates for DNACPR discussions rose from 61.5% to 89%, and for high NEWS communications from 22% to 100%. Following the addition of teaching and awareness sessions, compliance decreased slightly to 77% and 40% respectively. This decline was likely influenced by small sample size, workload pressures, rotating on-call teams, and variable NoK availability. Nonetheless, the simple intervention led to greater awareness and measurable improvement in documentation compared with baseline.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This project demonstrated that simple, low-cost interventions such as visual prompts can significantly enhance documentation of NoK communication. Sustaining improvement in busy inpatient environments, however, remains challenging. Integrating mandatory NoK communication fields within the Epic electronic patient record, complemented by continued poster campaigns, induction teaching for rotating clinicians, and regular re-audits, will help consolidate progress and ensure that NoK communication remains a core standard of high-quality, person-centred care within OPS.



Influence of Mattress Cleaning Intervals and Environmental Factors on House Dust Mite Density and Allergen Concentrations in Klang Valley, Malaysia

Shirley Gee Hoon Tang, Nur Izzati binti Mahizan, Sufian Abd Rahman, Nantha Kumar Jeyaprakasam, Hidayatul-fathi Othman, Mazrura Sahani

Affiliations

Center for Toxicology and Health Risk Studies (CORE), Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

shirleytgh@ukm.edu.my

Keywords

House dust mites, Mattress hygiene, Mite allergens, Klang Valley

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Allergy to house dust mites (HDM) is a major cause of asthma and allergic rhinitis in Malaysia. However, local studies on HDM remain limited, and recent data on species distribution, allergen burden, and environmental factors affecting mite prevalence are still scarce.

Materials and Methods

A case-control study assessed the house dust mite (HDM) composition and allergen dynamics across 64 randomly selected households in the Klang Valley. Mattress dust samples were stratified into three groups based on cleaning status: Control (uncleaned), Group A (≤ 1 month post-cleaning), and Group B (≥ 2 months post-cleaning). Mite density and species were determined microscopically, while concentrations of major allergens, Der p 1 and Der f 1, were quantified using ELISA. A standardised questionnaire was also used to record relevant demographic, environmental, mattress, and ventilation characteristics. Statistical analyses were performed using one-way ANOVA and Spearman's correlation to determine significant differences and relationships between variables.

Results

The predominant HDM family found in mattresses within the Klang Valley was Pyroglyphidae (47.2%), with *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* (22.9%) identified as the dominant species. Mattresses in Group A exhibited significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower HDM density and lower concentrations of both Der f 1 and Der p 1 allergens compared to control and Group B. The control group showed a significantly ($P < 0.05$) higher HDM density and Der p 1 and Der f 1 concentrations than Group A. Correlation analysis revealed significantly ($P < 0.05$) strong positive associations between mite indicators and indoor humidity, number of room occupants, and number of children and adults. Conversely, strong negative correlations were observed with cleaning frequency and total room count. Moderate positive correlations were found with window openings, while moderate negative correlations were associated with fan usage.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study provides updated insights into the current HDM scenario in Malaysia. Frequent mattress cleaning at ≤ 1 -month intervals effectively reduce HDM density and allergen levels, thereby lowering the potential risk of HDM-related allergic diseases. Regular mattress maintenance and improved household hygiene practices are recommended to minimise allergen exposure and enhance indoor air quality.



Association between Previous Perinatal Death and Subsequent Pregnancy Outcomes in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Bekalu G. Kassaa, b, Yvonne K. Parryb, Molla M. Wassiea, Lauren E. Linesb

Affiliations

a Department of Midwifery, College of Health Sciences, Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia

b Caring Futures Institute, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University, Australia

c Flinders University, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, Adelaide, South Australia

Corresponding Author Email

kass0045@flinders.edu.au or bekalugetnet947@gmail.com

Keywords

Perinatal death, stillbirth, early neonatal death, subsequent pregnancy outcomes, LMICs

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Perinatal death remains a major public health concern globally and serves as a key indicator of maternal and neonatal health. However, limited research exists on how previous perinatal death influences subsequent pregnancy outcomes in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Therefore, understanding the association of previous perinatal deaths with subsequent pregnancy outcomes is essential. The review aimed to assess the association between perinatal death and subsequent adverse pregnancy outcomes in LMICs.

Materials and Methods

A systematic search was conducted across eight databases (Scopus, Emcare, Medline, Cochrane Library, ProQuest Dissertations, CINAHL, Web of Science, and PsycINFO) from inception to May 2, 2024. Eligible studies were observational in design. Data extraction was conducted using the Joanna Briggs Institute tool, and study quality was appraised using the GRADE framework. Meta-analysis was performed using STATA 18 software, applying a random-effects model to estimate pooled odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs). Heterogeneity was assessed using the I^2 statistic.

Results

Fifty articles were included in this systematic review and meta-analysis. The finding revealed a perinatal death rate of 29.7 deaths per 1000 births among the included studies. The risk of preterm birth (OR = 1.52, 95% CI: 1.12-1.93), low birth weight (OR = 1.91, 95% CI: 1.43-2.38), preeclampsia (OR = 1.34, 95% CI: 1.18-1.5), perinatal death (OR = 2.07, 95% CI: 1.29-2.84), stillbirth (OR = 1.87, 95% CI: 1.07-2.68), miscarriage (OR = 1.55, 95% CI: 1.07-2.02), and early neonatal death (OR = 1.74, 95% CI: 1.48-2.01) was increased after perinatal death.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Previous perinatal death significantly increases the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in subsequent pregnancies in LMICs. These findings underscore the need for targeted assessment and monitoring of pregnant women with a history of perinatal loss in LMICs. Healthcare professionals must be equipped with evidence-based protocols to deliver appropriate care strategies that can mitigate risks in subsequent pregnancies.



Empowering Junior Doctors as Educators: Capacity Building, Cultural Identity, and Life-long Learning in Medical Education

Su Su San¹, Soe Htet Htet Aung², Tha Pye Mon³, Akshay Patel⁴

Affiliations

¹ Medical Doctor, The Brunei Cancer Centre, Jerudong Park Medical Centre, Brunei Darussalam

² Senior Clinical Fellow in Geriatric Medicine, King's Mill Hospital (Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), UK

³ JSD(H) Acute Medicine, Heartlands Hospital (UHB Trust), UK

⁴ Foundation Year 3 Doctor, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

Corresponding Author Emails

dr.sususan2017@gmail.com, swekhinhtun@gmail.com

Keywords

Capacity building, Clinical teaching, Educator, Educational transformation, Junior doctors, Medical education

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

As healthcare systems evolve, clinicians are increasingly expected to serve not only as caregivers but also as educators, mentors, and leaders of sustainable clinical practice. Among them, junior doctors (JDs) play a growing role in undergraduate medical education, shaping local educational structures and contributing to global health development. This study explores the contributions, challenges, and developmental needs of JDs in clinical teaching, with emphasis on their role in cultural identity formation and sustainable health education.

Materials and Methods

A qualitative workshop was conducted at Nottingham University Hospitals. Fifty junior doctors and medical educators participated, alongside ongoing quantitative data collection from medical students. The workshop explored three core discussion themes: (1) the benefits of junior doctor involvement in education, (2) challenges encountered in fulfilling teaching roles, and (3) practical strategies for enhancing clinical teaching.

Data were collected through group discussions and structured feedback forms, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed using thematic analysis. Data collection continued until thematic saturation was reached, with no new codes emerging from the groups. As the project was undertaken as part of a quality improvement initiative within the Trust, formal ethical approval was not required. Participation was voluntary, and verbal informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Results

Findings revealed significant educational and capacity-building benefits. For JDs, these included opportunities for structured teaching, postgraduate education (e.g., PGCert), and professional identity as educators. For universities, JD involvement enhanced curriculum delivery, simulation capacity, and student engagement. In global contexts, JDs contributed scalable and adaptable educational frameworks, promoting equity and sustainability. NHS Trusts benefited through improved staff retention and alignment with institutional educational missions, while key challenges included time constraints, limited training in curriculum delivery and assessment, inconsistent awareness of Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) standards, and fragmented teaching efforts, though JDs remained relatable mentors fostering inclusive, safe, and supportive learning environments.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Junior doctors are essential to educational transformation within healthcare, and their contributions should be formally recognized and strengthened through practical initiatives such as integrating protected teaching time into clinical schedules, establishing structured mentorship pathways to develop educational competencies, and introducing educator accreditation opportunities early in their careers. Empowering junior doctors as educators fosters lifelong learning, supports career progression, and contributes to the development of resilient, culturally responsive health education systems.



Quality and Outcomes in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (QOMS): The Nottingham Experience

Millie Windram¹, Rory O'Connor², Nivetha Saravanan³, Aimee Rowe⁴

Affiliations

¹ University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

² Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, Nottingham, UK

³ King's College London, London, UK

⁴ University Hospitals of Derby and Burton (UHDB), UK

Corresponding Author Email

milliewindram@gmail.com

Keywords

Oral and maxillofacial surgery, quality improvement, outcomes, facial fractures

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Nottingham's Queens Medical Centre (QMC), a major trauma centre, sees many mandibular and orbital floor fractures. Since 2018, BAOMS (British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons) has undertaken a national project, QOMS (Quality and Outcomes in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery)¹ to set benchmarks for procedures in OMFS; this includes the management and complications of patients with facial trauma, in particular mandibular and orbital floor fractures.

Methods

From July 2022 to October 2023, data from QMC was collected for patients undergoing surgery for mandible or orbital floor fractures from Bluespeir Theatre Management software. Postoperative data was collected from DHR file manager and entered into the QOMS database using REDCap, a validated data management software in healthcare.

Results

165 patients were identified: 150 had mandibular fractures and 15 had orbital floor fractures.

The mean age of mandibular fracture patients was 29. 52.7% had no risk factors and 71.3% had no associated injuries. The most common risk factor was smoking, and the leading cause was alleged assault with a fist/foot. The mandibular angle was the most common fracture site and 8% of patients were re-admitted within 90 days with subsequent surgery.

The mean age of orbital floor fracture patients was 37.7. 56.3% had no risk factors and 73.3% had no associated injuries. The most common risk factor was smoking, and the leading cause was alleged assault with a fist/foot. The orbital floor was the most common fracture location and 26.7% of patients had a re-admission within 90 days and subsequent surgery.

Conclusion

Most fractures occurred in isolation, and readmission rates for mandibular fractures align with published data. However, orbital floor fracture readmissions were high, potentially due to the conservative treatment approach, meaning that only complex cases are operated on, but more work is required to reduce this rate.



A Scoping review of sustainable healthcare practices in Malaysia within the framework of SDG-3 Good health and well-being

Samuel Adeyinka-Ojo¹, Malini Sathappan¹, Blessing Adeyinka-Ojo²

Affiliations

¹Faculty of Business, Curtin University Malaysia

²School of Management, Asia e University, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

samuel.adey@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Sustainable healthcare, SDG-3, Malaysia, green hospitals, digital health, community engagement

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Malaysia's pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being) reflects its commitment to universal health coverage, equity, and sustainable healthcare. The country's health system integrates sustainability through digital health innovation, family planning, green hospitals, and community engagement. However, structural inefficiencies, urban-rural inequities, and health system fragmentation hinder comprehensive progress (Zulkifli et al., 2024). The COVID-19 pandemic further underscored the need for resilient, sustainable healthcare that balances technological innovation, inclusivity, and environmental responsibility (Zreik, 2024). This scoping review explores Malaysia's healthcare initiatives within the framework of SDG 3, identifying key enablers, barriers, and opportunities for multi-sectoral integration. The focus areas include family planning, digital health, healthcare service delivery, community participation, and pandemic response.

Materials and Methods

The review followed the PRISMA-ScR methodology to systematically identify relevant studies, policy papers, and grey literature published between 2020 and 2025. Databases such as Scopus, PubMed, and Google Scholar were searched using keywords like "sustainable healthcare," "Malaysia," "SDG 3," and "community health." Inclusion criteria encompassed peer-reviewed research, government reports, and WHO publications addressing sustainability in Malaysia's healthcare system. Out of 97 initial records, 48 were included based on relevance and methodological rigour. Data were analyzed thematically across six domains: universal health coverage, sustainable financing, digital transformation, reproductive health, community participation, and COVID-19 resilience.

Results

The findings reveal that Malaysia has made notable advancements in expanding primary healthcare access and digitalizing services through initiatives like MySejahtera and the Telemedicine Blueprint 2021-2025. The Green Hospital Framework has encouraged hospitals to adopt renewable energy, efficient waste management, and low-carbon operations (Idris and Samsudin, 2024). However, regional disparities persist, particularly in rural and East Malaysian communities where healthcare accessibility and infrastructure lag behind urban centres (Ab Hamid et al., 2022). Family planning programs have improved reproductive health outcomes, but cultural and socioeconomic barriers still hinder equitable access (Wan Jusoh, et al., 2025). Meanwhile, community-based health literacy programs like KOSPEN have strengthened preventive care awareness but require consistent funding and leadership support. Malaysia's COVID-19 response demonstrated strong intersectoral coordination and digital integration but also revealed weaknesses in migrant and mental health services. Overall, sustainability in Malaysian healthcare is advancing but remains uneven.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Recommendations include strengthening digital equity through nationwide connectivity, expanding community-based initiatives, investing in green hospital technologies, and institutionalizing intersectoral policy coherence. For future research, longitudinal studies should evaluate the long-term effects of sustainable healthcare initiatives on population health outcomes and system resilience. Integrating sustainability into every level of healthcare governance remains vital for ensuring good health and well-being for all Malaysians. In conclusion, Malaysia's healthcare transformation aligns closely with SDG 3's principles of equity, inclusion, and sustainability.



The Beneficial Effects of Chewing Xylitol Gum on Salivary pH, Plaque Accumulation, and Streptococcus Mutans Colonies: A Quasi-Experimental Study in Dental Students

*¹Hans Lesmana, ¹Rini Sitanaya, ¹Surya Irayani, ¹Syamsuddin Abubakar, ¹Ernie Thioritz, ²Hansen Lesmana

Affiliations

¹Department of Dental Health, Polytechnic of Health Ministry, Makassar , Indonesia

²Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Mega Buana Palopo, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

hanslesmana@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

xylitol, salivary pH, plaque index, Streptococcus Mutans, caries

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Dental caries is a prevalent oral health issue in Indonesia, with risk factors including imbalanced saliva pH, plaque accumulation, and Streptococcus mutans bacteria. Xylitol, a natural sweetener with antibacterial effects and the ability to raise saliva pH, holds potential for caries prevention. Chewing itself increases saliva secretion. This study aimed to assess the effects of chewing xylitol gum on changes in saliva pH, plaque buildup, and Streptococcus mutans colony numbers.

Materials and Methods

This quasi-experimental study utilized a one-group pretest-posttest design with 10 randomly selected students from the Dental Therapy Study Program at the Makassar Ministry of Health Polytechnic. Saliva pH, plaque index, and Streptococcus mutans colony counts (via total plate count on Mitis-Salivarius Agar) were assessed before and after 3–5 minutes of xylitol gum chewing. Analysis involved the Shapiro-Wilk normality test and paired t-test.

Result

The study has shown an increase in the average saliva pH from 7 to 8.4. The average plaque index value decreased from 1.47 to 0.88. Similarly, there was a decrease in the average number of Streptococcus mutans colonies from 209.8 to 141.1. Statistical tests showed a significant effect of chewing xylitol gum on these three variables ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion and Recommendation

In conclusion, chewing xylitol gum can increase salivary pH to be more alkaline and reduce the number of Streptococcus mutans colonies in the oral cavity. This supports the use of xylitol as a dental caries prevention strategy that is easy to apply in everyday life.



Enhancement of Primary Tooth Enamel Remineralization Capacity with Casein Phosphopeptide-Amorphous Calcium Phosphate (CPP-ACP) Application

*¹Rini Sitanaya, ¹Hans Lesmana, ¹Surya Irayani, ¹Asriawal, ¹Siti Adlinah Fatman, ¹Wanda Nurhamidah

Affiliations

¹Department of Dental Health, Polytechnic of Health Ministry, Makassar , Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

rini_sitanaya@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

CPP-ACP, Primary Teeth; white spot lesion; remineralization, demineralization

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Caries occurs as a result of the process of demineralization of the tooth enamel surface by organic acids produced by bacteria in the biofilm that adheres to the tooth surface. Primary teeth are more susceptible to enamel demineralization than permanent teeth because the enamel layer of primary teeth is thinner than that of permanent teeth. Casein Phosphopeptide-Amorphous Calcium Phosphate (CPP-ACP) is one of the remineralization materials in dentistry that contains Casein in the form of Phospho Protein Casein (CPP), high levels of Calcium and Phosphate, thus inhibiting demineralization. The anticariogenic mechanism produced by CPP-ACP increases the concentration of Calcium and Phosphate ions in saliva and forms Amorphous Calcium Phosphate, which has the ability to penetrate the enamel layer, thereby inhibiting the demineralization process and increasing remineralization. This study aims to see the ability of CPP-ACP to increase enamel remineralization by observing changes in the enamel surface of primary teeth.

Material and Methods

This research is a true experimental laboratory study with a pretest and post-test group design. As a sample, extracted teeth 71 and 81 were used, which were caries-free, without anomalies, and had no fillings. The samples were divided into 2 treatment groups: CPP-ACP application for three minutes and five minutes, twice a day. Observations of increased remineralization processes in the samples were conducted in the laboratory on days 1st, 7th, and 14th.

Results

Remineralization processes were observed on the surface of primary tooth enamel, but there were differences in the speed of the remineralization process between the two sample groups. Remineralization occurred faster in the samples from group B, which were intervened with CPP-ACP application twice a day for 5 minutes.

Conclusion and Recommendation

CPP-ACP can enhance enamel remineralization, and its effectiveness can be improved by increasing the duration and frequency of use.



The Effect of Chin Tuck Exercise and Neck Calliet Exercises On Improving The Functional Ability of Forward Head Posture Conditions In The Elderly at The Batara Hati Mulia Indonesia Foundation

Virny Dwiya Lestari¹, Rahmat Nugraha², Abdurrahman Mansyur³.

Affiliations

¹²³ Department of Physiotherapy, Makassar Ministry of Health Polytechnic, Makassar, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

virnydwiya25@gmail.com

Keywords

Elderly, Forward Head Posture, Chin Tuck Exercise, Neck Calliet Exercise, Functional Ability

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Forward Head Posture is one of the most common types of postural disorders and is generally described as the anterior position of the head in relation to the vertical line of the body's center of gravity, and has a bad effect on the elderly, which can reduce balance in the elderly due to changes in the center of gravity in the elderly's body. This can have an impact on the posture of the elderly, and the position of the neck tends towards the front, which can have an impact on daily activities such as bending over, reaching for something, walking more slowly, and losing balance. Physiotherapy is important to reduce pain, reduce muscle spasms, increase muscle flexibility, increase muscle strength, and improve posture. Chin Tuck Exercise is an exercise therapy method with the technique of pulling the chin back parallel over the shoulders. Chin Tuck Exercise is one of the most effective postural exercises to reduce neck pain due to forward head posture. This exercise helps improve neck posture by strengthening the muscles that pull the head back to a straight position above the shoulders and also stretching the scalenic and suboccipital muscles. Neck Calliet Exercise is an exercise therapy that uses isometric contractions by holding resistance and ending with relaxation.

Materials and Methods

This type of research is quasi-experimental with one group design, pretest, and post-test consisting of one treatment group with a sample of 30 elderly people as research respondents. The location of research was conducted at the Batara Hati Mulia Foundation. The study was conducted for 4 weeks with a frequency of 3 times per week and an intensity of 10 times repetitions of each movement. The measuring tool in this study is the Neck Disability Index.

Results

The results of the study obtained a mean pretest score of 27.23, which is included in the category of moderate disability, then a mean post-test value of 18.93, which is included in the category of mild disability. This shows that the administration of chin tuck exercise and neck calliet exercise can improve the functional ability of the neck in the Forward Head Posture, with an average increase of 8.30. The paired sample t-test obtained a value of $p=0.000$ ($p<0.05$), which means that there is an effect on the administration of chin tuck exercise and neck calliet exercise on the improvement of neck functional ability due to forward head posture in the elderly.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The elderly experienced an increase in functional ability based on the Neck Disability Index examination. Physiotherapy is important to reduce pain, improve neck muscle flexibility, reduce muscle spasms, and improve posture in Forward Head Posture patients. Chin Tuck Exercise and Neck Calliet Exercise are exercise therapy methods that use the concept of isometric contraction in muscles that are easy to do in the elderly as a home program.



Analysis of Community Decision-Making in Choosing Synthetic and Herbal Medicines in Makassar City, Indonesia

Rusli^{1*}, Maulia Hardian Hayati²

Affiliations

¹Department of Pharmacy, Polytechnic of Health, Ministry of Health, Makassar, Indonesia

²Medical Laboratory Technology Department, Polytechnic of Health, Ministry of health, Makassar, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

rusfar67@yahoo.com

Keywords

Decision-making, Synthetic Medicine, Herbal Medicine, Self-medication, Social Determinants

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Self-medication practices have become increasingly common, with both synthetic and herbal medicines widely used in urban communities. The choice between these types of medicines is often influenced by multiple socio-demographic and motivational factors. This study aimed to analyze the determinants of community decision-making in choosing synthetic or herbal medicines for treatment in Makassar City, Indonesia.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional, descriptive-analytic design was employed involving 641 respondents selected through a multistage random sampling technique across six districts. Data were collected using a validated and reliable questionnaire and analyzed using Chi-square tests to assess associations between variables.

Results

The results showed that 69.9% of respondents used synthetic medicines and 30.1% used herbal medicines. Significant associations were observed between the type of medicine used and gender ($p < 0.001$) as well as reasons for medicine selection ($p < 0.001$), while no significant relationships were found with age, education, occupation, or income ($p > 0.05$). The most common reasons for selecting medicines included ease of access and habitual use, while family recommendations were more associated with herbal medicine use. These findings indicate that social and motivational factors play a more dominant role than demographic characteristics in determining medicine choices.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Strengthening community-based education on rational and safe medicine use is essential to promote informed and responsible self-medication practices.



Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Pharmacists Toward Medication Safety in Pregnant Women in Indonesia

Ida Adhayanti^{1,2}, Elly Wahyudin², Muh. Akbar Bahar²

Affiliations

¹ Department of Pharmacy, Poltekkes Kemenkes Makassar, Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

² Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Hasanuddin, Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

ida.adhayanti@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

Pharmacist, Medication Safety, Pregnancy, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Medication use during pregnancy requires particular attention because physiological changes can alter pharmacokinetics and increase fetal exposure risk. Pharmacists play a central role in ensuring medication safety for pregnant women by providing accurate information, evaluating drug risks, and promoting rational use. However, there is limited empirical data regarding pharmacists' knowledge, attitudes, and practices on medication safety during pregnancy in Indonesia. This study aimed to assess these aspects and identify determinants associated with pharmacist competence in this area.

Materials and Methods

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted involving pharmacists from across Indonesia. The national population of pharmacists was 130,643, and the minimum required sample size was 399, calculated using the Slovin formula with a 5% margin of error. A total of 462 pharmacists voluntarily participated and completed a validated self-administered Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) questionnaire consisting of 50 items categorized into four domains: demographic data, knowledge of medication safety (prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin/supplement, and herbal products), attitudes toward medication risk assessment and counseling, and professional practices in dispensing and patient communication. Knowledge was measured using a Guttman scale, while attitude and practice items used five-point Likert scales. Data were analyzed descriptively, followed by bivariate ordinal logistic regression and multivariate ordinal logistic regression to identify significant predictors, with $p < 0.05$ considered statistically significant.

Results

Among 462 respondents, 85.9% were female, and 45.2% had practiced for over 10 years. Overall, 49.6% demonstrated moderate knowledge, 54.5% had moderate attitudes, and 58.4% exhibited good practices. Knowledge levels were significantly associated with years of practice ($p = 0.015$) and longer working hours (>40 hours/week; $p = 0.001$). Pharmacists who frequently served pregnant women or regularly consulted references showed higher knowledge and practice scores ($p < 0.05$). Attitude levels were influenced by working hours (20–40 hours/week; $p = 0.022$) and by the habit of recommending physician consultation ($p = 0.041$). Practice quality was higher among pharmacists who frequently read scientific references ($p = 0.030$) and provided counseling to pregnant clients ($p = 0.031$). Most respondents (59.5%) advised clients to seek physician confirmation before purchasing additional medications.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Pharmacists in Indonesia demonstrated adequate yet improvable knowledge, attitudes, and practices toward medication safety during pregnancy. Continuous education, structured clinical training, and integration of medication safety modules into professional development programs are essential to enhance pharmacists' competence. Policymakers should encourage the inclusion of pharmacists in maternal care programs to minimize medication-related risks and strengthen patient safety across healthcare settings.



Health impacts and risk assessment of PM₁₀, Cr, Pb, and Cd from transportation exposure in Indonesia

Iwan Suryadi¹

Affiliations

¹ Department of Environmental Health, Poltekkes Kemenkes Makassar, Makassar, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

iwansuryadi@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

Ambient air pollution, Spatial Analysis, Risk Assessment, Transportation

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 μm (PM₁₀) from motor vehicle emissions has increased air pollution, negatively affecting both the environment and human health. This study aims to comprehensively evaluate health risks associated with exposure to PM₁₀, lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), and chromium (Cr) across 36 monitoring points along major arterial roads in Makassar, Indonesia. The assessment integrates non-carcinogenic risk (using Risk Quotient/RQ and Target Hazard Quotient/THQ) and carcinogenic risk (via Excess Cancer Risk/ECR) analysis, supported by spatial distribution mapping through IDW interpolation.

Materials and Methods

Air sampling was systematically conducted at 36 strategic locations representing varying traffic densities and urban activities. PM₁₀ and heavy metal concentrations were measured directly and analyzed in the laboratory. Health risk assessment followed USEPA guidelines, calculating chronic daily intake, RQ, THQ, and ECR. Spatial analysis using IDW visualized PM₁₀ dispersion patterns across the study area.

Results

The average PM₁₀ concentration was 28.65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, ranging from 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Heavy metal concentrations averaged 0.01 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for Pb, 0.007 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for Cd, and 0.00042 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for Cr. Non-carcinogenic risk assessment showed all RQ and THQ values remained below 1, indicating acceptable non-carcinogenic risk levels. Carcinogenic risk evaluation revealed ECR values for Cd and Cr ranging between 1×10^{-6} and 1×10^{-7} , below the 1×10^{-4} safety threshold. IDW mapping identified traffic-congested areas as PM₁₀ hotspots, particularly along commercial and high-density residential zones.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Both non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic risks from PM₁₀ and heavy metal exposure in Makassar's urban arteries fall within acceptable limits. However, persistently elevated PM₁₀ levels in identified hotspots warrant sustained emission control measures and periodic monitoring. Urban planning interventions targeting traffic management and emission reduction are recommended to maintain long-term air quality and public health safety.



Impact of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation and Muscle Energy Technique on Myofascial Trigger Point in the Upper Trapezius Muscle

Siti Nurul Fajriah^{1*}, Hasnia Ahmad^{2*}, Abdullah Tamir^{3*}

Affiliations

1-3 Physical Therapy Department, Health Polytechnic of Health Ministry Makassar, Makassar, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

lulu@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

Myofascial Trigger Point (MTrP), Muscle Energy Technique (MET), Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS), Pain, Numeric Rating Scale (NRS)

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Myofascial Trigger Point (MTrP) in the Upper Trapezius Muscle is a musculoskeletal disorder characterized by hyperirritable spots containing hypersensitive nodules located within a taut muscle band. These nodules are painful upon compression and can cause referred tenderness (or referred pain) and this condition can occur in administrative staff.

Materials and Methods

This pre-experimental study utilized a "One Group Pretest-Post-test Design." The research aimed to 1) determine the pain intensity of upper trapezius MTrPs before and after the administration of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) and Muscle Energy Technique (MET), and 2) quantify the effect of TENS and MET on pain reduction in these MTrPs. The sample for this study consisted of 15 participants, selected through a purposive sampling technique.

Results

The study found that the pain intensity in upper trapezius MTrPs before administering TENS and MET was primarily classified within the severe pain and moderate pain categories. Following the intervention, the pain intensity shifted to the mild pain and moderate pain categories. Statistical analysis using the Wilcoxon test yielded a p-value of 0.001 ($p < 0.05$), indicating a statistically significant effect. This result signifies that the combined application of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation and Muscle Energy Technique is effective in reducing pain due to MTrPs in the upper trapezius muscle among the administrative staff of the polyclinic at Bhayangkara Makassar Hospital.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, this study demonstrates a significant positive effect of administering Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation and Muscle Energy Technique on patients with upper trapezius MTrPs among administrative staff at the Bhayangkara Makassar Hospital polyclinic, successfully shifting their pain classification from severe and moderate pain to moderate and mild pain. To maximize the result of the therapy, it is expected that patients can repeat the exercise program in the form of active stretching taught by physiotherapy and pay attention to ergonomic positions while working.



Environmental Exposure Risk Analysis of Restaurant Food on the Incidence of Typhoid Fever in Makassar City

Zaenab¹

Affiliations

¹ Department of Environmental Health, Polytechnic of Health Ministry of Health Makassar, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

zaenab@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

Environmental Exposure Risk, Salmonella sp, Restaurant Food, Hygiene and Sanitation, Typhoid Fever

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Typhoid fever remains a major public health problem, particularly in developing countries with suboptimal sanitation and hygiene conditions, affecting approximately 21.5 million people annually. According to the South Sulawesi Provincial Health Office, the incidence of typhoid fever exceeds 2,500 per 100,000 population, accounting for 7.3% (1,451 cases) of the ten most common inpatient diseases out of a total of 19,856 cases. This study aimed to analyze the environmental exposure risk of restaurant food related to typhoid fever incidence in Makassar City.

Materials and Methods

The study employed a quantitative descriptive observational design. The research population included all categories of restaurants in urban Makassar, namely fine dining restaurants, fast-food outlets, eateries, cafés, small diners, and street food vendors. A total of 60 restaurants were randomly selected from each category. Data were collected through field observations, interviews with food handlers, and laboratory examination of food samples. Descriptive analysis was conducted to assess the distribution of risk factors and the presence of Salmonella contamination.

Results

The results showed that most food handlers were aged 19–25 years (58.4%) with a final education level of senior high school/vocational school (33.3%). The majority of environmental variables in restaurants did not meet health standards, including physical environmental conditions (66.7%), food hygiene and sanitation (70%), personal hygiene (73.3%), and environmental contamination risk (75%), while risk control measures met the requirements in 46.7% of cases. Laboratory examination of 60 food samples revealed that 33 restaurants (55%) tested positive for Salmonella sp., mainly among eateries and street food vendors with open food processing systems and limited sanitation facilities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The main contributing risk factors were substandard restaurant environmental conditions, poor personal hygiene among food handlers, and unhygienic food processing practices. Regular supervision and monitoring of hygiene and sanitation practices in restaurants by local health authorities are strongly recommended to reduce foodborne disease transmission risks.



Contribution of Wealthier Families to Child Stunting in Indonesia: A Secondary Data Analysis

Sirajuddin¹, Mustamin¹, Sukmawati¹

Affiliations

¹ Department of Nutrition, Poltekkes Kemenkes Makassar, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

sirajuddin.gizi@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

Wealthier Family, Child Stunting, Positive Deviance

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Stunting remains a significant public health challenge in Indonesia, with poverty being a well-established risk factor. However, evidence suggests that children from wealthier families are also affected, highlighting the need to understand the complex interplay of factors contributing to stunting. This study aims to examine stunting patterns across household wealth levels and contextual drivers through a typology framework, key insights into the paradox of prosperity and its implications for child health policy.

Materials and Methods

Using data from the 2023 Indonesian Health Survey, we analyzed 20,302 children under five across ten provinces with high stunting prevalence. We classified households into four typologies positive deviance, negative deviance, expected normal, and expected stunting based on child nutritional status and wealth index.

Results

Among the sampled households, 27.4% were in the lowest wealth quintile, while 24.97% belonged to the highest. Notably, 16.7% of children from poor households exhibited normal growth (positive deviance), whereas 19.99% of stunted children originated from wealthier households (negative deviance). The majority of non-stunted children (51.6%) came from affluent families, yet only 11.7% of stunted children were from the poorest quintile. Bivariate analysis revealed significant differences in sanitation, caregiving practices, and health-seeking behavior across typologies ($p < 0.001$), with optimal practices more prevalent among positive deviance households.

Conclusions and Recommendations

These findings suggest that stunting interventions must move beyond poverty targeting and adopt a typology-sensitive approach that addresses contextual factors to improve child growth outcomes.



Integrating Artificial Intelligence to Improve Preservice Teachers' Attitudes Toward Teaching Social Studies

Randy Tudy

Affiliations

College of Education, University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao City, Philippines

Corresponding Author Email

ratudy@usep.edu.ph

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Elementary Education, Preservice Teachers, Social Studies

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

As a foundation for developing good and productive citizens, Social Studies plays a crucial role in forming learners, especially at the early stages of their academic journey. However, captivating learners' interest in this subject demands innovative and creative teaching strategies. Similarly, fostering teachers' motivation to teach the subject is also challenging (Fufa et al., 2024). With the advent of technology, this paper investigates the effectiveness of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing preservice teachers' attitudes toward teaching Social Studies.

Materials and Methods

The study employed Action Research, utilizing quantitative and qualitative research designs. The participants were the 41 preservice teachers enrolled in the "Teaching Social Studies to Elementary Grades" course at a university in Southern Mindanao, Philippines. The instructor introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a teaching tool, requiring students to integrate it into their teaching demonstrations as a course requirement. Teaching demonstrators used Bing Image Creator, Canva, ChatGPT, VEED, Wordwall, Kahoot!, Sketch, Eduaide, Buzzin. live, and EducPlay. Before the teaching demonstrations, a pretest using the Attitudes toward teaching Social Studies (ATTS) Questionnaire was administered, followed by a posttest after all demonstrations were done. Focus Group Discussion was conducted to validate the effectiveness of the intervention.

Results

Using a paired sample t-test, the findings showed that all statements, except statement number 1 "I like teaching Social Studies", showed significant differences as evidenced by the p-values which are lower than 0.05 level of significance. It means that there is a significant increase in the mean score of statements two to ten after the integration of AI in classroom demonstration. In addition, the findings of the qualitative inquiry further supported the effectiveness of AI integration.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The findings suggest that integrating AI tools into instructional activities can enhance preservice teachers' motivation and readiness to teach Social Studies. It is recommended that teacher education programs embed digital toolkits, including AI, into pedagogy courses to promote innovative teaching practices.



Cancer Screening in Primary Care: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Mila Nu Nu Htay^{1,2}, Mon Mon Thawda Oo³, Tin Tin Su⁴, Michael Donnelly⁵

Affiliations

¹ Centre for Population Health (CePH), Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

² Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Manipal University College Malaysia

³ Faculty of Medicine, Manipal University College Malaysia

⁴ South East Asia Community Observatory (SEACO) and Global Public Health, Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia, Bandar Sunway, Selangor, Malaysia

⁵ School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences/ Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author Email

drmlnnh@gmail.com

Keywords

Cancer Screening, Primary Care, Guideline adherence, medical doctor decision-making

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Primary care doctors (PCDs) are positioned to play a key role in the prevention and early detection of cancer. This review synthesized evidence from studies about the perceptions and experiences of PCDs regarding the factors that influenced or inhibited their decision to recommend cancer screening.

Methods

The qualitative evidence synthesis (QES) concentrated on studies of medical doctors in a primary care setting in any geographical region that provided qualitative data about PCDs' perceptions and experiences regarding the decision to recommend screening for colorectal, breast, or cervical cancer. Systematic searches were conducted in MEDLINE, Web of Science, Embase, and the Cochrane Library for eligible studies that were published between 1 January 2000 to 22 January 2025. Studies were appraised using the Cochrane qualitative Methodological Limitations Tool (CAMLLOT), and the evidence synthesis findings were assessed using the Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research (CERQual) approach. Data was synthesized using the Thomas and Harden thematic analysis. The report of the review followed the ENTREQ (Enhancing Transparency in Reporting the Synthesis of Qualitative Research) guideline.

Results

A total of nine studies met eligibility criteria and were included in this QES. The analysis of the evidence produced a synthesis that comprised three main analytical themes: Firstly, PCDs demonstrated positive attitudes towards cancer screening guidelines even though there were some concerns regarding false-negative results, complications of colonoscopy, and lack of rewards/compensation for adhering to screening recommendation. Secondly, implementation challenges were noted such as (i) patient refusal, fear of procedure, and misconceptions, (ii) PCD-related inhibitors such as fatigue, time constraints, and forgetfulness, and (ii) health system-related barriers such as shortage of test kits, no reminders, and absent or inefficient integration of electronic medical record incorporating cancer screening. Thirdly, adherence facilitating factors included integration of digital record systems, reminders, and raising community awareness about screening.

Conclusion

There tends to be good adherence to screening guidelines among PCDs across various countries and health care systems at least relating to CRC and to a lesser extent, cervical cancer. Studies about adherence to BC screening in primary care are required. The incorporation of an array of interrelated factors appear to facilitate adherence. We know less about cancer guideline adherence in resource-constrained settings and there is a need for studies in primary care in LMICs.



Post-Magnetic Resonance Imaging Claustrophobia Among Adult Patients: Establishing a Baseline Prevalence and Associated Factors

Li Ruonan^{1,*}, Mohammed Faez Abobakr², Hana Chen^{3,*}

Affiliations

¹ School of Graduate Studies, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

² International Medical School, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

³ Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

1243287938@qq.com; hanachen@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Claustrophobia, Claustrophobia Questionnaire (CLQ), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Fear, Restriction

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a valuable diagnostic tool that generates detailed images of the body without requiring invasive surgery or ionising radiation. However, entering the confined MRI tunnel can trigger claustrophobia (Dostál et al., 2024) and lead to premature termination of the scan. Despite its clinical importance, limited studies have measured the prevalence of post-MRI claustrophobia among patients who complete the procedure. A study conducted over two decades ago found that 37% of patients self-reported moderate to severe anxiety after the MRI scan (Katz et al., 1994), but this did not specifically assess claustrophobia. The present study aimed to establish a baseline prevalence of post-MRI claustrophobia and to identify its determinants among adult MRI patients in Henan, China.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional analytical study was conducted among MRI patients in hospitals in Henan. Participants were purposively selected and completed a self-administered questionnaire on sociodemographic characteristics, scanned body parts, and fear of restriction-related claustrophobic symptoms after the MRI scan. Claustrophobia was assessed 30 minutes post-scan using the validated Claustrophobia Questionnaire (CLQ) 12-item Restriction Scale with a Likert scale range of 0–4 (Radomsky et al., 2001). Based on quartile splits, scores <36 indicated normal-to-mild symptoms, while ≥36 indicated moderate-to-severe symptoms. The study received institutional ethics approval and informed consent was obtained from all participants before enrollment. Data were analysed using multivariate logistic regression.

Results

A total of 258 patients completed the MRI procedure and survey. Approximately 41% of the patients reported moderate-to-severe claustrophobic symptoms after the scan. Multivariable regression identified five significant predictors: middle-aged adults ≥45 years (vs. younger adults <45 years, AOR = 14.10, 95% CI: 5.71–34.65, $p < 0.001$), lower education level (vs. higher, AOR = 1.97, 95% CI: 1.08–3.59, $p = 0.027$), and brain/upper torso scans (vs. extremities/lower torso, AOR = 5.26, 95% CI: 2.77–9.97, $p < 0.001$) were more likely to experience moderate-to-severe claustrophobia; whereas single/divorced (vs. married, AOR = 0.53, 95% CI: 0.29–0.97, $p = 0.038$) and unemployed/retired (vs. employed, AOR = 0.29, 95% CI: 0.11–0.74, $p = 0.010$) were less likely.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study established a baseline prevalence of 41% for post-MRI moderate-to-severe claustrophobic symptoms, consistent with previous findings (Katz et al., 1994). Claustrophobic symptoms were more common among middle-aged adults and those undergoing brain or upper torso scans, similar to previous studies (Dostál et al., 2024; Hudson et al., 2022). Although administration of short-acting anxiolytics and advanced MRI technologies such as wider bores, faster scanning, and reduced noise can improve completion rates (Iwan et al., 2021), integrating psychological intervention is important in clinical practice. Hospitals should conduct brief pre-scan CLQ screening, provide counselling for high-risk patients, and apply non-pharmacological measures such as audio-visual aids, mirror periscopes, or mock-MRI sessions. When necessary, referral for cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) should be considered to enhance patient comfort and MRI service quality.



Oral Health-Related Quality of Life in Adolescents During Orthodontic Treatment in Henan, China: Conventional Braces vs Clear Aligners

Wang Yifei^{1,*}, Haryati Anuar², Noraini Nun Nahar Yunus³, Hana Chen^{4,*}

Affiliations

¹ School of Graduate Studies, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

² International Medical School, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

³ School of Dentistry, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

⁴ Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

1115957137@qq.com; hanachen@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL), COHIP-SF 19, clear aligners, fixed braces, adolescents

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Adolescents is a transitional phase in which permanent teeth replacing primary teeth, often leading to misalignment problems like malocclusion that may require orthodontic treatment. Over half of children and adolescents globally have malocclusion, with prevalence reaching up to 80% in certain provinces of China (Yin et al., 2023). Both malocclusions and orthodontic treatment process can cause functional impairment and affect social and emotional well-being, reducing oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL) (Alrashed et al., 2021). Although many studies showed improved OHRQoL after orthodontic treatment, few have examined the impact of the treatment process on OHRQoL. This study aimed to assess OHRQoL and its associated factors among adolescents undergoing orthodontics treatment in Henan.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted from August to September 2025 among Henanese adolescents aged 10-19 years attending dental clinics in Henan, selected through purposive sampling. Participants self-reported their sociodemographic characteristics, orthodontic treatment type, and OHRQoL, measured using the validated 19-item COHIP-SF 19 on a 0-4 Likert scale (Li et al., 2014). Based on quartile splits, scores <56 indicated poor and ≥56 indicated good OHRQoL. Cognitively eligible orthodontic patients were included, while those with poor hygiene, non-compliance, or poor health were excluded. Ethical approval and informed consent from participants or parents of those <18 years were obtained. Data were analysed using multivariate logistic regression.

Results

A total of 565 participants completed the study. The majority were high school students (71.3%), and 53.3% used clear aligners as orthodontic treatment. Nearly half (48.8%) reported low OHRQoL, with most fixed-brace users (71.2%) reported low OHRQoL during orthodontic treatment. Multivariable analysis identified younger adolescents aged 10-12 years (vs. 16-19 years; AOR = 2.52, 95% CI: 1.56-4.07, $p < 0.001$), lower income individuals (vs. higher income; AOR = 3.48, 95% CI: 2.01-6.00, $p < 0.001$), and fixed braces users (vs. clear aligners; AOR = 5.43, 95% CI 3.64-8.01, $p < 0.001$) as factors significantly associated with poor OHRQoL.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study found that many adolescents undergoing orthodontic treatment experience poor OHRQoL, with fixed-braces users reported lower OHRQoL, consistent with previous findings that fixed appliances had greater impact on OHRQoL (Borsato et al., 2025). Poor OHRQoL was associated with younger age, lower income, and the use of fixed braces, aligning with previous studies (Borsato et al., 2025; Vidigal et al., 2022). These findings emphasise the need for patient-centred care that considers both clinical and psychosocial aspects. Regular assessment of OHRQoL and supportive interventions during treatment could help minimise discomfort and improve the overall orthodontic experience and OHRQoL for adolescents in Henan.



Sexual Dysfunction and Fertility-Related Quality of Life among Infertile Men in Henan, China: A Cross-Sectional Study

Wang Zhongxin^{1,*}, Nurul Akmal Jamaludin², Hana Chen^{3,*}

Affiliations

¹ School of Graduate Studies, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

² International Medical School, Management and Science University, Selangor, Malaysia

³ Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

wzxwzxhappy@outlook.com; hanachen@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Infertile men; sexual dysfunction (SD); fertility quality of life (FertiQoL); Arizona Sexual Experience Scale (ASEX)

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Infertility affects about one in six couples worldwide, with male factors responsible for nearly half of all cases (Agarwal et al., 2023). Among men facing infertility, sexual dysfunction (SD) is a common but often overlooked issue that can affect their overall fertility-related quality of life (FertiQoL). Although studies in other countries have examined the relationship between SD and FertiQoL, this area remains understudied in China. As the sociocultural expectations on masculinity and fertility in Henan are strong, identifying the factors that influence FertiQoL gets more important than ever. This study aimed to assess the prevalence of SD, measure FertiQoL, and examine their association among infertile men in Henan.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted among infertile men aged 18–54 years attending fertility clinics in Henan, recruited through quota and purposive sampling. Participants self-reported sociodemographic characteristics, fertility-related issues, SD, and FertiQoL. The validated 36-item FertiQoL with a Likert scale range of 0–4 was used (Boivin et al., 2011). Based on quartile splits, scores <62 indicated poor FertiQoL and ≥62 indicated good FertiQoL. SD was measured using the 5-item Arizona Sexual Experience Scale (ASEX) with a 0–6 Likert scale (McGahuey et al., 2000), where total scores ≥19 indicated severe SD. The study received institutional ethical approval, and all participants provided informed consent. Data were analysed using multivariate logistic regression.

Results

A total of 319 participants completed the survey. Overall, 58.3% reported poor FertiQoL and 32.3% experienced severe SD. FertiQoL scores were significantly lower in the emotional (mean=12.4±3.1) and social (mean=11.8±2.9) subscales. Older age group of 45–54 years (AOR=2.17, 95%CI=1.23–3.82), primary education (OR=1.89, 95%CI=1.05–3.39), and low income with <2995 RMB (AOR=2.34, 95%CI=1.31–4.18) were significantly associated with poor FertiQoL (p<0.05). Fertility-related issues including infertility duration >10 years (AOR=2.56, 95%CI=1.44–4.55) and failed assisted reproductive technology (ART) (AOR=1.98, 95%CI=1.12–3.51) also predicted lower FertiQoL (p<0.05). Severe SD was independently associated with poor FertiQoL (AOR=2.89, 95%CI=1.67–5.01), even after adjusting for confounders (p<0.001).

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study revealed that many infertile men in Henan experience SD and a lower FertiQoL, with emotional and social aspects being most affected. Lower FertiQoL was linked to older age, lower education and income, longer infertile duration, failed ART, and severe SD, consistent with previous studies (Warchol-Biedermann, 2021; Coward et al., 2019). To address this, infertility care should incorporate routine screening for SD and emotional distress, counseling, and referral for therapy when needed. Training healthcare providers to handle sexual health concern with care and promoting community awareness can help reduce stigma, improve emotional support and overall QoL of infertile men in Henan.



Artificial Intelligence Readiness Among Undergraduate Medical Students in Malaysia: A Multi-Institution Cross-Sectional Study Using the MAIRS-MS Tool

Nurul Fathen Nadia Binti Abd Hadi¹, Adam Hakimi Bin Mahudin², Ahla Amani Binti Ahmad Syayuthi², Muhammad Arif Fidai Bin Mahfuz², Nur Ainul Basirah Binti Yusof², Muhammad Syahmin Aiman Bin Ahmad Sukran², Nur Anisah Aliah Binti Abdul Aziz², Nurin Adani Binti Mohd Zawahil², Nurul Hanissah Binti Rosdi²

Affiliations

¹Kulliyyah of Medicine & Health Sciences, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah 09300 Kuala Ketil, Kedah, Malaysia.

²Undergraduate Medical Students, Kulliyyah of Medicine & Health Sciences, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah 09300 Kuala Ketil, Kedah, Malaysia.

Corresponding Author Email

drfathen@unishams.edu.my

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Medical Education, Malaysia, Readiness, MAIRS-MS

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming healthcare by enhancing diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and patient outcomes. As AI technologies increasingly support clinical decision-making, medical students must acquire the competencies needed for safe and effective use. Although AI integration is gaining attention globally, the readiness of Malaysian medical students to engage with AI remains unclear. Current evidence is limited, with few multi-institutional studies and scarce use of validated assessment tools. There is a notable gap in national data using the MAIRS-MS scale to guide curriculum development in Malaysia. Therefore, we aimed to estimate overall and domain-specific AI readiness (Cognition, Ability, Vision, Ethics) using the validated Medical Artificial Intelligence Readiness Scale for Medical Students (MAIRS-MS) among Malaysian medical students and examine demographic correlates.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional quantitative study was conducted between May and July 2025 among undergraduate medical students from 29 accredited Malaysian public and private medical schools. Eligible participants were currently enrolled Year 1–Year 5 students aged ≥ 18 years. Convenience sampling was used, and invitations were disseminated through institutional contacts, student societies, and social media platforms. AI readiness was assessed using the validated 22-item MAIRS-MS scale across four domains (Cognition, Ability, Vision, Ethics), rated on a five-point Likert scale. Descriptive statistics were applied, and Mann–Whitney U and Kruskal–Wallis H tests examined demographic associations. Analysis used IBM SPSS Version 27 with significance set at $p \leq 0.05$.

Results

A total of 363 medical students participated in the study, of whom 64.2% were female and 67.8% were Malay. The majority were preclinical students (68%) and enrolled in private institutions (61.4%). Awareness of AI applications in medicine was high (82.6%), although only 35.3% had received any formal AI-related training, highlighting a notable gap in structured educational exposure. The overall mean AI readiness score was 79.44 ± 13.70 , reflecting a moderate-to-high level of readiness among respondents. Domain-specific mean scores were: Ability (29.98 ± 5.76), Cognition (27.36 ± 5.84), Vision (11.10 ± 2.47), and Ethics (11.00 ± 2.52). Significant associations were observed between ethnicity, study year, region of university, and AI awareness ($p < 0.05$). Comparative analysis showed that Malaysian students in the current study performed better in overall AI readiness than their counterparts from Iran (70.59), Saudi Arabia (68.39), and Jordan (64.27), and slightly surpassed those from Indonesia (73.34). These findings suggest progressive improvement in AI literacy and exposure among Malaysian medical students, reflecting growing institutional emphasis and awareness of AI integration in medical education.



Conclusions and Recommendations

Malaysian medical students demonstrate encouraging readiness for AI adoption, particularly in self-perceived ability and awareness. However, lower performance in cognitive and ethical domains highlights the need to prioritize curriculum components involving AI fundamentals. Implementable strategies include introducing required or elective AI and data science modules, co-teaching with data science experts, embedding simulation-based ethical decision-making cases, incorporating competency-based assessments, and enhancing faculty development to ensure teaching expertise. Partnerships with hospitals and industry may further support authentic learning experiences. As this study used a cross-sectional, self-reported, and non-probability sampling design, findings should be interpreted with caution. Future research should include longitudinal and multi-method evaluations across institutions to track changes in readiness and examine the impact of specific educational interventions.



Neuropsychological functions with depression and resilience in stroke patients: Structural Equation Modelling analysis

Maharishi Ranganathan¹, Maya Rathnasabapathy²

Affiliations

^{1,2} Department of Psychology, School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai, India

Corresponding Author Email

maharishipsy@gmail.com

Keywords

Neuropsychological functions, Depression, Resilience, Stroke, Structural Equation Modelling

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Stroke is a major neurological disorder with profound cognitive and psychological consequences that extend beyond physical disability. Post-stroke patients often experience neuropsychological impairments alongside mood disturbances, particularly depression, which may further hinder recovery. Resilience, however, has been identified as a potential protective factor in mitigating adverse psychological outcomes. The present study examined the interrelationships among neuropsychological functions, depression, and resilience in stroke patients using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM).

Materials and Methods

A clinical sample of 75 stroke patients (aged 20–70 years; 1–6 months post-onset) was assessed using the NIMHANS Neuropsychological Battery, Beck Depression Inventory-II, and Wagnild & Young's Resilience Scale. Results indicated that neuropsychological functioning exerted both direct and indirect effects on resilience, with depression serving as a partial mediator.

Results

Results indicated that neuropsychological functioning exerted both direct and indirect effects on resilience, with depression serving as a partial mediator. Confirmatory factor analysis demonstrated good model fit indices (CMIN/df = 0.998, GFI = 0.931, AGFI = 0.884, RMSEA = 0.049), confirming the structural validity of the proposed model. Findings suggest that impaired neuropsychological functioning increases vulnerability to depression, which in turn reduces resilience, while stronger cognitive functioning positively contributes to adaptive resilience outcomes. These results underscore the importance of integrating cognitive rehabilitation with psychological interventions targeting depression and resilience enhancement in stroke care.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study demonstrated that impaired neuropsychological functioning increases vulnerability to depression, which in turn reduces resilience, while stronger cognitive functioning enhances adaptive outcomes. Depression served as a partial mediator, underscoring the need to address both cognitive and psychological factors in stroke care. Integrating neuropsychological rehabilitation with interventions targeting depression and resilience is recommended. Routine screening, resilience-building therapies, and caregiver involvement can further support recovery. Future research with larger, longitudinal samples is needed to strengthen causal inferences. A holistic rehabilitation model that incorporates cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial dimensions can ultimately improve quality of life for stroke survivors.



Assigned places, chosen futures: Gendered leadership pathways in a conservative welfare state – the case of Austria

Dr. Lisa-Marie Stauffer

Affiliations

¹ Institute for Gender and Diversity in Organizations, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna, Austria

Corresponding Author Email

lisa-marie.stauffer@s.wu.ac.at

Keywords

gender equality, leadership, career barriers, conservative welfare state, cross-cultural competence

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

This study examines how female and male leaders in top positions in Austria perceive, experience, and navigate gendered career dynamics within the socio-cultural and institutional context of a conservative welfare state. Drawing on 59 in-depth semi-structured interviews with executives and politicians, it explores perceptions of women's social and economic positioning, identifies structural, organizational, and individual factors influencing career progression, and analyses strategies for overcoming barriers.

Materials and Methods

The research draws on 59 in-depth semi-structured interviews with top executives and politicians in Austria. The interviews were analysed using a qualitative content analysis approach, combining deductive and inductive coding. A multi-theoretical framework integrates Sen and Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach, Bourdieu's capital theory, and Esping-Andersen's welfare state approach, enabling investigation of the interplay between individual agency, institutional constraints, and cultural norms.

Results

Findings reveal that similar patterns of gendered barriers—ranging from persistent stereotypes and unequal care distribution to exclusion from influential networks, which affected all leaders. Those who attained the highest positions did so not through inherent privilege, but by actively developing strategies such as targeted career planning, building and leveraging social and symbolic capital, and strategically engaging in male-dominated and other key spaces. These strategies highlight the importance of cultural adaptability, resilience, and the capacity to operate across diverse professional subcultures—competencies central to cross-cultural management.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study contributes to cross-cultural competence research by demonstrating parallels between managing across national cultural boundaries and navigating deeply entrenched gendered institutional settings, offering implications for both organizational practice and policy-making.



Anger Dysregulation and Its Correlation with Delinquency Among Juvenile Learners: Art-Based Therapy Intervention

Muhamad Sa'dan Abdul Aziz¹, Azureen Abd Aziz², Ade Yamin S³ Hasse Jubba⁴

Affiliations

¹ Faculty of Education and Liberal Arts, INTI International University, Nilai, Malaysia

² Faculty of Education and Liberal Arts, INTI International University, Nilai, Malaysia

³ Institut Agama Islam Negeri Fattahul Muluk Papua Fakultas Syariah, Prodi Hukum Tata Negara, Indonesia

⁴ Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

msaqdan.aaziz@newinti.edu.my

Keywords

Anger dysregulation, Juvenile delinquency, Adolescent behavior, Emotional regulation, Art therapy intervention

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Anger dysregulation has emerged as a significant psychological factor linked to antisocial behaviors among adolescents. Juvenile learners with poor anger management often demonstrate higher susceptibility to disciplinary issues, school violence, and delinquent conduct. Understanding the relationship between emotional dysregulation and juvenile delinquency is critical for developing effective intervention strategies within educational and rehabilitative frameworks. This study aims to examine the correlation between anger dysregulation and delinquent behavior among juvenile students and to identify key psychological well-being factors contributing to maladaptive anger expression.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional qualitative study was conducted involving 34 juvenile learners (aged 13–17) at one of the juvenile rehabilitation centers in Malacca. These participants were selected through purposive sampling, ensuring that all individuals had a history of behavioral issues and were undergoing rehabilitation for delinquent conduct. The setting provided a controlled environment conducive to observing emotional and behavioral patterns. The participants were divided into three focus groups, each facilitated by trained moderators.

The sessions were structured around the theme of anger awareness and emotional regulation. On top of that, there were interactive activities in which participants were asked to draw or visually represent their coping strategies for managing anger. After that, during peer presentations, each group shared its insights and strategies, fostering reflection and peer learning. The facilitated discussions encouraged participants to share their thoughts, past experiences, and emotional triggers in a safe and supportive environment. All sessions were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim for thematic analysis. Due to the anonymity of students, ethical approval (2025-006B) was sought to ensure their rights are protected from harm, that they are fully informed, and that they are treated with respect.

Results

The findings revealed a significant negative impact on three aspects of anger management: anger, jealousy, and frustration. The findings found that juvenile learners with poor anger regulation often display distorted thinking and lack healthy coping strategies, leading to aggressive behavior. Through drawing and peer-sharing activities, students began to recognize and express emotions like anger, jealousy, and frustration more clearly. These exercises promoted emotional awareness, self-reflection, and peer support, such as key elements of cognitive-behavioral therapy. As a result, students showed signs of improved self-esteem, emotional control, and social connection, highlighting the importance of early interventions to support psychological well-being and reduce delinquent behavior.



Conclusions and Recommendations

Future studies should focus on interventions on cognitive-behavioral strategies and parental involvement, which may help reduce aggression and prevent the escalation of youth delinquency. The study underscores the strong linkage between poor anger regulation and juvenile delinquency, highlighting the urgent need for early school-based emotional regulation programs.



Enhancing Knowledge of Teenage Pregnancy Prevention: A Wake-Up Call from the First District-Wide Adolescent Health Intervention in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Voltisa Thartori^{1*}, Hana Chen^{1*}, Mitshel Lino¹, Miguel Guimaraes Barros De Sa¹, Roy Rillera Marzo¹, P. Raviwharmman A/L Packierisamy², Noor Izni Mohammad Shapie², Zhafireen Muhd Danial Mansor², Josfirin Uding Anak Rangga³, Hijaz Ridzwan⁴

Affiliations

¹ Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Miri, Sarawak

² Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kuching, Sarawak

³ Miri Division Health Office, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Miri, Sarawak

⁴ Department of Psychiatry Kuliyyah of Medicine International Islamic University of Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email

voltisa@curtin.edu.my, junhannah1991@gmail.com

Keywords

Adolescent Health, Teenage Pregnancy, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Health Education, Sarawak, Knowledge Intervention

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Recent years have shown an alarming tendency regarding adolescent pregnancies in Malaysia, with the state of Sarawak recording over 9200 cases between 2019 and 2023. Limited access to reliable information and cultural taboos regarding sexual and reproductive health might explain the vulnerability and susceptibility of adolescents not only to unwelcomed pregnancies, but also STI's and unhealthy romantic relationships. Therefore, the goal of the Adolescent Health Carnival was to provide trustworthy information while fostering a safe space for adolescents to discuss the issue.

Materials and Methods

To measure the immediate impact of the intervention provided by the organization, a quantitative-based, one-group pre-test-post-test quasi-experimental was designed, focusing on the adolescents' knowledge of teenage pregnancy and its prevention. The survey, adapted from the Youth and Adolescent Sexual Knowledge Scale (YASKS), showed a statistically significant impact of the knowledge transfer in the 146 adolescents.

Results

Results from a paired samples t-test demonstrated a statistically significant increase in knowledge from pre-test ($M = 3.35$, $SD = 0.33$) to post-test ($M = 3.78$, $SD = 0.46$), $t(145) = -11.20$, $p < .001$, indicating a large effect size ($d = 0.93$). Findings in the exploratory survey show the preexisting gap in knowledge and lack of clarity regarding sexual and reproductive health and romantic relationships.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The results provided evidence about the effectiveness of the Adolescents Health Carnival as a vehicle to educate and inform about sexual and reproductive health, while at the same time providing a safe space for adolescents to explore the issue and share their doubts, which could be further replicated in order to promote healthier choices in Malaysia's adolescents.



Participative, sustainable office design as a catalyst for cultural change that promotes employee motivation, health, and environmental protection

Karin Schreiber¹, Angelika Schmidt², Roy Rillera Marzo³, Petra Heidler⁴

Affiliations

¹ Doctoral student at the Institute of Change Management and Management Development, University of Economics and Business, Vienna, AT

² Institute of Change Management and Management Development, University of Economics and Business, Vienna, AT

³ Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences and Community Research and Sustainability Centre, Curtin University, Malaysia, MY

⁴ Institute of International Business and Economics, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, AT

Corresponding Author Email

karin-s@gmx.at

Keywords

Corporate Culture, Psychological Safety, Participation, Motivation, Office Design, Sustainability

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The world is undergoing increasingly rapid change, accompanied by ever-growing demands (e.g., digitalization, hybrid work models, sustainability reporting). This transformation is further accelerated by technological advancements (e.g., artificial intelligence), resource scarcity, and intense competition among companies for customer favor. However, this pressure also affects the well-being and mental health of employees and managers, leading to a rising need for psychological safety and a healthy, meaningful work environment. This research examines the impact of “participative, sustainable office design” on corporate culture, motivation, and leadership behavior. The analysis focuses on how spatial design can be used as a strategic tool for cultural change, while simultaneously promoting environmental protection, motivating employees, and supporting both psychological and physical health prevention.

Materials and Methods

As part of an exploratory single-case study from April to December 2026, qualitative and quantitative methods will be combined to analyze the effects of a “participative, sustainable office design process” within the company. The aim is to gain an in-depth understanding of the interrelationships between office design, corporate culture, and sustainable development. Data collection is based on a systematic literature review, analysis of internal company documents, focus groups with employees and managers (6–10 participants each), semi-structured interviews with experts (architect, psychologist, occupational physician, HR consultant, company HR manager, sustainability expert), surveys on corporate culture, and visual documentation using Photo Voice. Data analysis includes an artifact analysis within the focus groups and a qualitative content analysis according to Mayring.

Results

Based on the findings from the artifact analysis and qualitative content analysis, hypotheses are formulated and practical recommendations are derived. The results are intended to provide actionable guidance for managers, architects, and change managers to successfully implement sustainable transformations within organizations. The research provides:

- insights into the needs, values, beliefs, and requirements of employees and managers,
- an overview of the current corporate culture and contradictions between the current culture, corporate strategy, and leadership style,
- an analysis of the influence of office design on employees and managers,
- perspectives from various experts in the context of a “sustainable work environment.”



Conclusions and Recommendations

This study makes an innovative contribution to organizational research by demonstrating how office design can serve as a catalyst for sustainable change processes. It provides important psychosocial foundations for the subsequent planning, implementation, and support of change management processes within the company—aimed at promoting flexibility, innovation, and teamwork, and fostering a “sustainable work environment.”



Steroid And Hyperglycaemia: Improving Detection and Management

Htet Su Win¹, Aye Thandar Cho², Swe Khin Htun³, Shirine Boardman⁴

Affiliations

Department of Medicine, Grantham District Hospital, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author Email

Dr.htetsuwin@gmail.com; Cho37.atdcho@gmail.com

Keywords

JBDS - Joint British Diabetes Societies; EAU - emergency assessment unit; GDH - Grantham and District Hospital; DSN - Diabetes Specialist Nurse

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Steroids are potent anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive agents that are used in various medical conditions. The prevalence of steroid use among inpatients is around 25–40%². The aim of our study is to assess adherence to the JBDS guidelines; evaluate the adequacy of blood glucose monitoring and control, ensure appropriate referral and follow-up planning.

Materials and Methods

This is a retrospective study, conducted in EAU and Harrowby wards at Grantham District Hospital. Patients initiated on steroids during admission were included. Data were collected from electronic records and medical notes, including past medical history (specifically diabetes status), HbA1c on admission, frequency of glucose monitoring, and adequate glucose control and referral to DSN.

In the first cycle, 24 patients were reviewed over a three-month period on a non-consecutive basis. Following feedback and intervention, a second cycle included 19 patients over six weeks, also collected non-consecutively. Data were analysed to assess adherence to the standard of Joint British Diabetes Societies (JBDS) guidelines on glucose monitoring, adequate BM control, referral, and follow-up planning.

Results

A total of 24 patients were included in the first audit cycle and 19 in the second. Among patients with known diabetes, adherence to recommended four-times-daily glucose monitoring decreased from 50% (4/8) in the first cycle to 33% (1/3) in the second. In contrast, monitoring among non-diabetic patients improved significantly, with once-daily glucose monitoring increasing from 18.75% (3/16) to 87.5% (14/16).

In the first cycle, 75% (3/4) of patients who developed steroid-induced hyperglycaemia or diabetes were referred to the Diabetes Specialist Nurse (DSN) team and had appropriate discharge plans. However, in the second cycle, only 20% (1/5) achieved adequate glycaemic control during admission. Pre-treatment HbA1c measurement remained low across both cycles (31.25% vs. 18.75%).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, glucose monitoring among non-diabetic patients improved following interventions, while monitoring among diabetic patients and HbA1c screening showed limited progress, highlighting the need for ongoing education and reinforcement of JBDS guidelines.

Inadequate glucose monitoring may delay treatment, appropriate referral, and diagnosis of steroid-induced diabetes, while lack of follow-up increases the risk of hypoglycaemia once steroids are stopped. Additionally, elevated glucose levels should prompt referral and management according to JBDS guidelines. Promote training and awareness, regular clinician review, and referral to the DSN or GP for post-discharge blood glucose review are essential to improve adherence to JBDS guidelines and optimise patient outcomes.



Clinical profile, etiology, complications, morbidity, and outcome of empyema thoracis in children in a tertiary care center in Eastern Nepal.

Dr. Shyam Prasad Kafle¹, Namu Koirala²

Affiliations

¹ Department of Pediatrics and adolescent medicine, BPKIHS, Dharan, Nepal (Associate Professor)

² Purbanchal University School of Health Sciences, Morang, Nepal (Assistant Professor, department of Nursing)

Corresponding Author Email

shyam.kafle@bpkihs.edu

Keywords

Empyema thoracis; parapneumonic effusion; paediatrics; fibrinolysis; chest tube drainage; Nepal.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Empyema and complex parapneumonic effusion complicating pneumonia has increased dramatically in children over the last decade especially in developing countries like Nepal. This study will help to bring the clinical profile, etiology, complications, morbidity and outcome of empyema thoracis and complex parapneumonic effusion complicating pneumonia in children.

Materials and methods

A retrospective study was conducted in the Department of Paediatrics at a tertiary care center in Eastern Nepal. A total of 106 children were managed with the diagnosis of complicated pneumonia with effusion or empyema thoracis from March 2017 to February 2021 (Five years). Only those patients who had clinico-radiological evidence of pleural effusion or empyema thoracis and received treatment with or without intercostal chest tube drainage (ICD) as the initial procedure were enrolled in the study. Besides supportive treatments and antibiotics, streptokinase was instilled intrapleurally in all the patients for three days. Patients who did not respond underwent VATS/decortication.

Results

Majority of the children (60.19%) were below five years of age and were males (73.58%). Majority (55.67%) had a right-sided pleural effusion, and fever was the predominant symptom (55.66%) at presentation. The pleural fluid culture was sterile in more than half (55.66%) of the patients, with *Staphylococcus aureus* grown in 33.96%. The three most common complications were subcutaneous emphysema, thickened pleura, and pyo-pneumothorax. The success rate of medical management was 83.96% and the mortality was low (2.84%).

Conclusions and recommendations

The success rate of conservative management with antimicrobial therapy, intercostal drainage, and fibrinolytics in this study was high (83.96%), with no major adverse effects of fibrinolytic therapy in empyema thoracis.



Sworn Virgins of Albania: Masculinization and Female Empowerment

Voltisa Thartori

Affiliations

Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Miri, Sarawak

Corresponding Author Email

voltisa@curtin.edu.my

Keywords

Sworn Virgins, Burrnesha, Female Empowerment, Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini, Feminist Anthropology, Gender Performativity, Albania, Patriarchal Societies.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The 15th-century Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini, a severe patriarchal rule that governed life in northern Albania, gave rise to the phenomenon of Sworn Virgins (burrnesha), women who put up their feminine identity to live as men. In societies where male heirs determined the retention of the family name, inheritance of property, and survival, women may adopt masculine roles by pledging lifelong celibacy and assuming male responsibilities, attire, and conduct. This study examines the burrnesha tradition's dual role in both reinforcing and subverting patriarchal authority, transforming societal norms into mechanisms for women to acquire power and control.

Materials and Methods

This study conducted a qualitative historical analysis utilizing ethnographic, anthropological, and historical materials from the 19th to the 21st centuries. The sources were the writings of Durham (1928), Whitaker (1981), Gjergji (1963), and Backer (2003). The study examined the evolution of gender roles in northern Albania using documented case studies, news articles, and cross-cultural evaluations of gendered social systems.

Results

The results demonstrate that Sworn Virgins were in a unique situation. They had to follow patriarchal standards that said a man had to be the head of the home, but they also had more freedom than anyone else under a system that only allowed men. These women were able to obtain property rights, leadership, and the right to travel around freely that other women didn't have. People thought of them as signs of a man's honor and power. They didn't stop being women when they became more masculine; it was a smart method to stay alive and get respect. After Communism fell, Albania's social and political structures changed, and there were a lot fewer burrneshas. This is a hint that the patriarchal systems that used to need them are slowly going away.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Sworn Virgin tradition reveals how hard it is to find a balance between gender, culture, and power in communities when men are in command. It illustrates that women in the past dealt with oppression by complying and reinventing themselves instead of fighting back. There are now less than 20 burrneshas left, which indicates that a unique cultural response to female discrimination is coming to an end. To safeguard this vanishing cultural heritage and enhance understanding of women's roles within patriarchal systems, further research and recording are essential.



Assessing Students' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Sustainable Development Goals at A Malaysian Private University: A Cross-Sectional Study

Mohammed A. Abdalqader¹, Alabed Ali Ahmed¹, Hana Chen², Norhafizah Ab Manan¹, Ruhana Che Yusof¹, Amelah Mohammed Abdul Qade^{1*}, Wahid Wajih¹, Mohamed Abd Elwahab Mohamed Badawi¹, Muhamed T. Osman¹, Hasanain Faisal Ghazi³

Affiliations

¹Faculty of Medicine, University of Cyberjaya, Persiaran Bestari, Cyber 11, 63000 Cyberjaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

²Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Miri, Sarawak

³College of Nursing, Al-Bayan University, Baghdad, Iraq

Corresponding Author Email

mohamed.aj@cyberjaya.edu.my

Keywords

Sustainable Development Goals, knowledge, attitude, practice, students, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), introduced by the United Nations in 2015, highlight the role of education in promoting sustainable development. While Malaysian public universities have made strides in integrating sustainability into their programs, private universities, despite hosting a large student population, remain underexplored in this area. Existing studies often focus narrowly on environmental issues or select SDGs, with limited research evaluating students' overall knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) toward the SDGs. This study addresses this gap by assessing SDG-related KAP among students at a Malaysian private university, providing insights to guide educational strategies and policy development.

Materials and Methods

This study assesses the knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among students at the University of Cyberjaya. A total of 425 students were recruited using convenience sampling, participated in this cross-sectional survey, with data collected through a self-administered validated questionnaire.

Results

The results showed that most participants had good knowledge (89.2%) and a positive attitude (86.4%). However, less than half demonstrated good practice (41.4%), indicating a disconnect between knowledge, attitude, and actual practices. There is a significant correlation between knowledge with age and faculties ($p < 0.01$), and between practice with faculties ($p = 0.032$). Additionally, there was a significant association between knowledge and attitude ($p < 0.01$), and between attitude and practice ($p = 0.002$).

Conclusions and Recommendations

These findings suggest that while students are aware of SDGs and hold positive attitudes, more emphasis is needed on encouraging practical applications of sustainable behaviours. Educational interventions focusing on bridging the knowledge-practice gap and fostering sustainable practices are recommended.



Beyond Competency: Uncovering Emotional Intelligence in Leadership Assessment

Sartika Kooshanafiah¹, Arie Arizandi Kurnianto^{1,2*}

Affiliations

¹ BPJS Ketenagakerjaan, Indonesia

² Centre for HTA and Pharmacoeconomic Research, University of Pécs, Hungary

*Corresponding Author Email

arie.arizandi@bpjsketenagakerjaan.go.id

Keywords

Emotional Quotient; Emotional Intelligence; Leadership Assessment; Predictive Validity; Interpersonal Competence

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Leadership assessments are often utilized for the identification and development of potential leaders through assessing important competencies such as strategic thinking, decision-making, and planning. However, persistent discrepancies between predicted and actual workplace performance indicate that, by and large, the current frameworks do not accurately reflect emotional intelligence (EI), a critical aspect of effective leadership.

Methods

This narrative review with a meta-analytic approach following key PRISMA reporting principles, provides a critical investigation on if emotional intelligence (EI) exists within leadership assessment dimensions, the role and development of EI on leadership performance, and the evidence for EI related predictors. We included 4 studies after screening 192 articles in Scopus for English-language empirical studies published between 2020 and 2025.

Results

Fisher's z - z -transformed correlations with a random effects model provided a pooled correlation of $r = 0.37$ (95% CI 0.29-0.45, $p < 0.001$) when assessing emotional intelligence related dimensions (interpersonal sensitivity, empathy, social understanding, communicative competence), relationship with leadership performance and professionalism across leadership assessment. Heterogeneity ($I^2 \approx 54\%$) was moderate, showing effects are replicated in a consistent manner while dependent upon context.

Conclusion and Recommendation

These results are consistent with a positive emotional intelligence is technically assessed through behavioral dimensions of leadership assessment, while also serving as a meaningful predictor of overall leadership effectiveness. Furthermore, including explicit measures of emotional intelligence across assessment design may significantly increase predictability, along with decreasing across placements performance discrepancies, while increasing overall leader development competency.



Cost Consequences Analysis of Occupational Accident: Balancing Fee-For-Service Models with Cost Containment Strategies

Arie Arizandi Kurnianto^{a,b*}, Suci Rahmad^b, Yasaruddin^b

Affiliations

^a Centre for Health Technology Assessment and Pharmacoeconomic Research, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary, 7621

^b BPJS Ketenagakerjaan, Indonesia, 12930

*Corresponding Author Email

arie.arizandi@bpjsketenagakerjaan.go.id

Keywords

Occupational Injury, claims, fee-for-service, cost-consequence, health care

ABSTRACT

Introduction/ Background

The way health care for occupational injury claims is financed in Indonesia, generally following a fee-for-service model, produces large variations in costs with inefficiencies that differ across regions in Indonesia. This study investigates the cost consequences of utilizing a fee-for-service model for occupational health care, while investigating potential interventions to balance cost containment with quality of service.

Methods

A retrospective study of occupational injury cases in Indonesia from 2015 to 2022, we assess diagnosis codes, treatment costs, and region-associated cost variability. A machine learning algorithm is utilized to cluster diagnoses to reduce variability, and stochastic frontier analysis is used to assess cost efficiencies. To assess cost trends, we utilized a difference-in-differences approach to compare high vs. low reimbursement dependency groups.

Results

Average costs for outpatient cases were \$743, with substantial variability associated, including a maximum for traumatic amputation of \$6,256. There were also differences across regions, with an average of \$5,726 in Papua. The diagnostic grouping achieved a 20% reduction in variability, while the estimated increase in costs was highest for regions characterized by high reimbursement dependency, where the average cost increased to \$2,246.

Conclusion

Occupational injury health care costs associated with a fee-for-service model are associated with substantial variability and inefficiencies across regions. Policy development should transition to standardized tariffs informed by regional cost patterns and diagnostic profiles to achieve sustainable and equitable health care financing. Therefore, further research is needed to evaluate the impact of this strategy on long-term cost containment and patient outcomes.



A Case of Umbilical Arterial Atresia in The Third Trimester of Pregnancy

Caixiu Pu

Affiliations

Department of Obstetrics, Chongqing Health Center for Women and Children Women and Children's Hospital of Chongqing Medical University , Chongqing, 401147, China

Corresponding Author Email

pucaixiu2020@163.com

Keywords

pregnancy, prenatal diagnosis, single umbilical artery, umbilical arterial atresia

ABSTRACT

The umbilical cord, consisting of two arteries and one vein, serves as the primary conduit for material exchange between the fetus and the maternal body. Single umbilical artery (SUA) is diagnosed when one of these arteries is absent or nonfunctional. The presence of SUA is associated with a higher risk of adverse perinatal outcomes compared to the general obstetric population. Here, we report a case of SUA detected via ultrasound in the third trimester. We present a rare case of umbilical arterial atresia with a successful outcome, detailing the clinical and pathological findings. A 27-year-old nulliparous woman with gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) was found to have a single umbilical artery (SUA) during a routine ultrasound at 30 weeks of gestation. Weekly monitoring of the fetal status was conducted. A healthy male infant was delivered via cesarean section at 39 weeks. The umbilical cord was excessively twisted, and no thrombus was detected along the affected vessel. The etiology of umbilical arterial atresia remains unclear, presenting diagnostic challenges. This case highlights the importance of sonographic diagnosis and appropriate clinical management.



The relationship between atypical glandular cells and malignancy risk: a retrospective single-center study

Jin Wu

Affiliations

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University
Chongqing 400016 China

Corresponding Author Email

wujin1977@sina.com

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Atypical glandular cells (AGC) in cervical cytology are often ignored, and the malignancy risk associated with AGC remains uncertain. This study aims to evaluate the histopathology and clinical correlations in patients diagnosed with AGC through cervical cytology.

Methods

This study retrospectively analyzed 402 patients who were diagnosed with AGC using cervical cytology in our hospital between March 2017 and June 2024. Among these, high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) results and histopathological findings within 1-year follow-up were included.

Results

The distribution of AGC subcategories was as follows: atypical endocervical cells (AEC), 13.4%; atypical endometrial cells, 10.9%; AGC, not otherwise specified, 49.8%; AEC, favor neoplastic, 6.7%; AGC, favor neoplastic, 19.2%. Precancerous lesions and malignancies were diagnosed in 58.9% of cases, with endometrial carcinoma being the most common (24.4%), followed by adenocarcinoma (10.0%). A total of 358 patients underwent hrHPV testing, with a positive rate of 35.2%. hrHPV positivity significantly increased the risk of cervical lesions, while endometrial lesions and pelvic malignancies were more common in hrHPV-negative patients.

Conclusion

This study showed that cytological diagnosis of AGC has high predictive value for cervical lesions, endometrial lesions, and pelvic malignancies. A more detailed triage procedure based on the AGC subcategory can reduce the possibility of missed diagnoses of reproductive tract tumors. The combination of hrHPV detection and age can serve as an important basis for the further diagnosis and management of AGC.



Clinical Differences Between *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Pneumonia and *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* Pneumonia: a case control study

Linyan

Affiliations

Department of Pediatrics Chongqing Health Center for Women and Children (Women and Children's Hospital of Chongqing Medical University), Chongqing, 401147, China

Corresponding Author Email

Yingyinglinyan2013@163.com

Keywords

Mycoplasma pneumoniae pneumonia, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* pneumonia, early diagnosis, independent predictive factor Clinical Differences

ABSTRACT

Introduction/ Background

Mycoplasma pneumoniae pneumonia (MPP) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* pneumonia (SPP) are common causes of respiratory tract infection. The study aimed to explore the differences in clinical features between children with MPP and those with SPP. 506 patients with MPP were compared to 311 patients with SPP in terms of clinical differences. The MPP group with a median age of 60 [29-89] months, and the SPP group with a median age of 24 [10-40] months. Patients with MPP were older and had a higher occurrence of receiving antibiotics before admission, fever, dry cough, polypnea, and diarrhea than patients with SPP (all $p < 0.01$). Patients with SPP were more likely to have wheezing, cyanosis, and irritability (all $p < 0.01$). Laboratory findings in our study showed that there were significant differences between MPP and SPP patients in mean leucocyte count, neutrophil % (N%), lymphocyte % (L%), ALT levels, AST levels, LDH levels, and incidence of accelerated procalcitonin (PCT) (all $p < 0.01$). Lower age, no dry cough, no polypnea, lower LDH levels, and higher PCT might lead to the diagnosis of SPP. Our study showed that age had a higher accuracy in predicting MPP than LDH levels, with an age > 48.5 months shown to be an independent predictive factor for the early evaluation and identification of MPP. In conclusion, patients with MPP and SPP usually present with fever, cough, and some nonspecific symptoms. Our study showed that age, dry cough, polypnea, LDH levels, and PCT levels were independent predictive factors associated with MPP and SPP.



Preliminary Study on the Effects of the McKenzie Method of Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy on Lumbar Back Muscle Function and Quality of Life in Patients with Degenerative Spinal Deformity

Xirang Zhang

Affiliations

Departments of Emergency and Trauma Orthopedics, The 958th Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Chongqing, 400020, China

Corresponding Author Email

zxr8946zxr@163.com

Keywords

Degenerative spinal deformity; Lumbar back muscles; Strength endurance; Quality of life; Exercise therapy.

ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

Degenerative spinal deformity (DSD) is a prevalent condition in the aging population, often leading to chronic pain, functional impairment, and a significant reduction in quality of life. Non-surgical rehabilitation approaches, such as the McKenzie Method of Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy (MDT), are commonly employed to manage symptoms and improve function in patients with spinal disorders.

Objectives

To investigate the effects of McKenzie Methods of Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy (MDT) on lumbar back muscle function and quality of life in patients with degenerative spinal deformity (DSD).

Methods

Thirty-one publicly recruited DSD patients from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2022, were selected as study subjects. All enrolled DSD patients were instructed in MDT exercise therapy and performed lumbar back muscle function training at home for 3 months. Maximum voluntary exertion (MVE) of the lumbar back muscles and endurance time (ET) were measured at enrollment and after 3 months of MDT exercise therapy. Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) was assessed using the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) and the 36-Item Short Form Health Survey (SF-36). Correlation analysis was performed using Pearson or Spearman analysis based on data characteristics. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve area was used to quantitatively evaluate the relationship between age and lumbar back muscle function.

Results

Significant correlations were found between MVE and both SF-36 and ODI scores at baseline and after 3 months of MDT exercise therapy in DSD patients ($P < 0.01$). ROC curve results for age versus lumbar back muscle function and QOL showed that the area under the curve (AUC) for age and whether MVE increased was 0.816 ($P < 0.01$), with a cut-off value of 69.5 years. The AUC for age and whether QOL improved (decreased ODI and increased SF-36 scores) was 0.784 ($P < 0.01$), with a cut-off value of 72.0 years. In DSD patients aged ≤ 69.5 years, MVE, SF-36 total score, and the SF-36 subscale scores for role-physical, bodily pain, vitality, social functioning, and mental health were significantly higher after 3 months of MDT exercise therapy compared to baseline, while ODI was significantly lower ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion

MDT exercise therapy in the rehabilitation of DSD patients can effectively improve lumbar back muscle function and enhance MVE, thereby improving QOL. The effect is particularly better for DSD patients aged ≤ 69.5 years.



Artificial Intelligence-Driven Optimization of Flavonoid Scaffolds as Selective HDAC6 Inhibitors of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)

Dwi Syah Fitra Ramadhan, Niar Ramadhana, Tajuddin Abdullah

Affiliations

Poltekkes Kemenkes Makassar, Makassar City, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Corresponding Author Email

dwisyahfitra@poltekkes-mks.ac.id

Keywords

AI-driven drug design, HDAC6 inhibitor, Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC)

ABSTRACT

Background

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is an aggressive breast cancer subtype characterized by poor prognosis and limited therapeutic options. Histone deacetylase 6 (HDAC6) has emerged as a promising target due to its involvement in tumor progression and chemoresistance. Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) have accelerated drug discovery through rapid identification and optimization of bioactive compounds. However, AI-guided design of flavonoid-based HDAC6 inhibitors remains limited, despite the known anticancer potential of flavonoids and their pharmacokinetic drawbacks. This study aims to develop novel apigenin-derived HDAC6 inhibitors using an AI-driven molecular design workflow integrating WADDAICA-assisted structure generation, molecular docking, ADMET-toxicity prediction, and DFT-based frontier molecular orbital (FMO) analysis.

Materials and Methods

An AI-assisted drug design pipeline was employed to generate apigenin analogs using WADDAICA. All designed molecules were evaluated through molecular docking against HDAC6, followed by ADMET and toxicity assessment to predict pharmacokinetic and safety profiles. Frontier molecular orbital calculations using DFT were conducted to analyze electronic reactivity, focusing on HOMO-LUMO energy levels and energy gap (ΔE_{gap}). Docking interactions with key residues—SER531, HIS614, TYR745, and LEU712—were examined to determine binding stability.

Results

Apigenin demonstrated the most favorable initial docking performance and was selected as the parent scaffold. Among its designed analogs, Apigenin_Design3 exhibited the strongest binding affinity (-6.5 kcal/mol) and formed stable interactions with essential HDAC6 residues (SER531, HIS614, TYR745, LEU712). ADMET profiling indicated enhanced lipophilicity, oral bioavailability, and an improved safety margin compared with the parent compound. DFT analysis further revealed that Apigenin_Design3 possessed the highest E_{HOMO} (-0.20218 a.u.) and the lowest ΔE_{gap} (0.00501 a.u.), confirming superior electronic reactivity and potential for biological activity.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Apigenin_Design3 emerges as a promising HDAC6 inhibitor candidate with improved pharmacokinetic, safety, and electronic properties compared with native apigenin. These findings highlight the effectiveness of AI-assisted molecular design in accelerating the discovery of novel therapeutic agents for TNBC. Future studies incorporating synthesis, in vitro, and in vivo validation are recommended to further confirm the compound's therapeutic potential.



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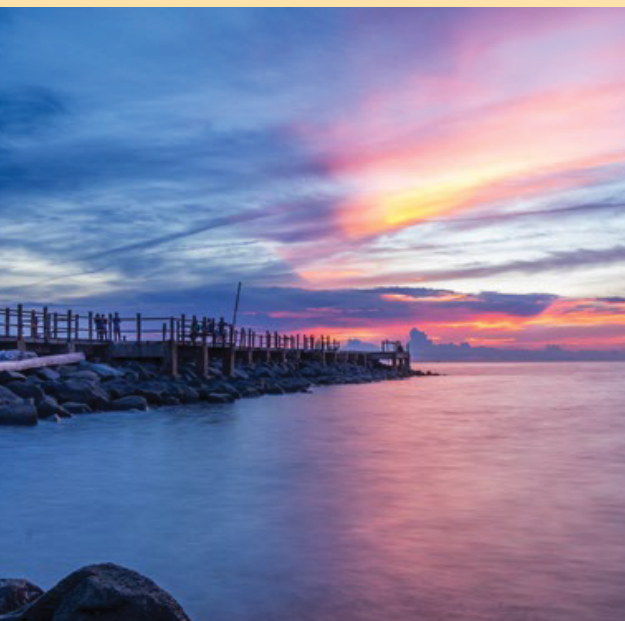
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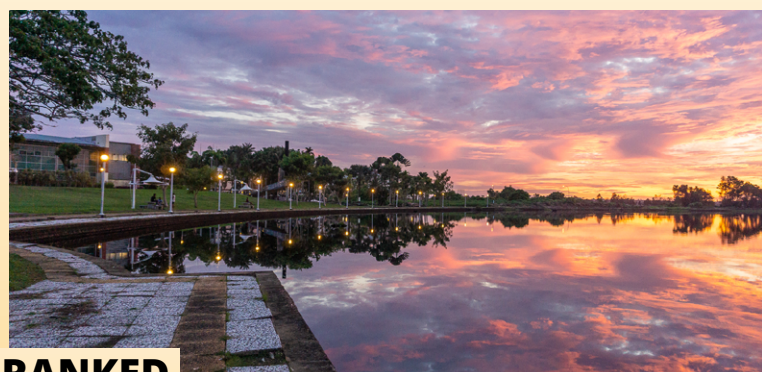
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