

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND  
BEHAVIOR ON ANTIBIOTIC USE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Recent surveys show that the knowledge of the general public about the correct use of antibiotics is limited. This contributes to the problem of inappropriate antibiotic use, leading to drug resistance. In this cross-sectional study, a questionnaire about knowledge level, attitudes and behavior towards antibiotic use was given to a random sample of population all across the Klang Valley. Of 128 subjects, 71.9% of respondents are not familiar with the term “antimicrobial resistance” while 72.4% do not seek advice or information from their doctors or pharmacists regarding antibiotics. 50.8% do not comply with antibiotic regimen. Among the population, 14.1% claimed awareness of the dangers associated with antibiotics. This study has observed a lack of general knowledge on correct antibiotic use in Malaysia, as has been found in other countries. Since this may be due to a lack of education, it is believed that repeated campaigns and constructive involvement of health professionals is necessary. In addition, education on the correct use of medications may need to begin at much earlier ages.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

There is a concern over the lack of public awareness on antibiotic resistance because the public play an important role in the emergence and spread of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Increasing levels of drug resistance are threatening to erode the medical advances of recent decades, according to a report released recently by the World Health Organization (WHO). Therefore, poor public knowledge, negative attitude and behavior on antibiotic use and the dangers associated with its malpractice will contribute to the increasing worldwide problem with threatening consequences on our ability to successfully treat bacterial infections in the future (McNulty *et al.*, 2007). Numerous studies have been found to relate antibiotic use to many societal factors.

### **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Antibiotics are becoming less effective, and in some cases, ineffective, against bacterial infections. Antibiotics have played a major role in today's modern medicine. These are