

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**PARENT'S KNOWLEDGE ON FEVER
MANAGEMENT IN CHILDREN**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	PAGE
APPROVAL FORM	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
CHAPTER 1 (INTRODUCTION)	
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Problem statement	4
1.3 Significance of the study	5
1.4 Objectives	5
CHAPTER 2 (LITERATURE REVIEW)	
2.1 Parents	6
2.1.1 Parents and feverish children	6
2.1.2 Fever phobia	7
2.2 Fever	8

Abstract

Fever is a common problem extremely occurs in childhood but, it is actually a sign or symptom that the body is defending it against the invasion of infection. The purpose of this study is to evaluate parent's knowledge on fever management in children. This cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in two population of community of Meru and Setia Alam. The questionnaire consists of 3 parts in Malay and English language. It consists of 13 items of demographic background and previous experiences for part A, 26 items of fever in children for part B and 8 items of fever management in children for part C. Starting from January to May 2013, a total of 142 questionnaires were distributed to this population to obtain information regarding their knowledge on fever management in children. Majority of the respondent was female (80.3%), Malay about (76.8%), not involve in learning or workings in the area of healthcare (82.4%), worked full time in government sector (52.8%), had a degree (31.7%), were in the age range of 20-29 (64.8%), had income of RM 1000-RM 2999 (35.9%), had febrile children with age around 1-5 years old (71.1%) and last experienced having febrile child less than 1 month ago (46.5%). There were significant differences between parent's basic knowledge on fever with gender, parent's knowledge on harmful effect of fever with highest education level, parent's knowledge on temperature check with number of children and parent's knowledge on signs and symptoms of fever with age of febrile children. In conclusion, almost half of respondents have good knowledge on fever management in children.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Fever can be defined as an elevation state of temperature which is often but not necessary, a defensive response of organisms known as host to the invasion of microorganisms or inanimate matter such as pathogens or alien (“Glossary of terms for thermal physiology,” 1987). While, hyperthermia is also a rise in body temperature that unregulated, but it represents as a failure of thermoregulatory homeostasis, involved uncontrolled heat production, inadequate heat dissipation, or defective hypothalamic thermoregulation (Mackowiak PA, 1998).

Fever is actually a sign or symptom that the body is defending itself against the invasion of infection which should not be treated, it arises from a phased sequence of interactions among soluble factors and cells that is initiated in the periphery that caused from the presence of the pathogens or their products which will be transmitted to the brain, thus modulates the febrile response (Blatteis, 2006).