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HEALTHCARE UTILISATION AMONG OLDER PERSONS IN MALAYSIA: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF HEALTH LITERACY

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LET'S GET TO KNOW

ABOUT

The relationship between the sociodemographic characteristics of the older persons and healthcare utilisation is well established. However, the process underlying this relationship is poorly understood particularly in the Malaysian context. This study intends to fill the gaps in preceding healthcare utilisation studies. Based on the synthesis of available literature, the mediating variable of health literacy on the relationship between age and healthcare utilisation was examined.

DESIGN/METHODOLOGY/ APPROACH

A cross-sectional study was conducted from February to April in 2016 to examine the mediating effect of health literacy on the relationship between age and healthcare utilisation. A total of 452 older persons were recruited from 14 public hospitals in Malaysia.

FINDINGS/EXPECTED FINDINGS

The average age of the respondents was 66.69 years old, with an age range between 60 to 105 years. The findings reveal that the relationship between age and healthcare utilisation was mediated by health literacy.

ORIGINALITY/VALUE/ CONTRIBUTION

The findings of this study can assist healthcare providers in planning strategies and programmes to encourage older persons to utilise healthcare services. Besides, the results will help the health planner to establish the provision of specific facilities to ensure the care and protection of older persons.

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