UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ABOUT DENGUE AMONG COMMUNITY LIVING IN HIGH OCCURRENCE OF DENGUE CASES IN SETIAWANGSA LOCALITY

HAMRY BIN HAMZAH

Project submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of
Bachelor in Environmental Health and Safety
(Hons.)

Faculty of Health Sciences

JANUARY 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, all praise to Allah S.W.T The Supreme Lord of the Universe. Peace and blessing to Nabi Muhammad S.A.W., all prophets and their families. I praise Allah S.W.T. for the strength and for His showers of blessings throughout my research work to complete the research successfully.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my research supervisor, Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Nazri Che Dom, Deputy Dean (Research and Industrial Network) Faculty of Health Science, UiTM Selangor Branch, Puncak Alam Campus, for giving me the opportunity to do research and providing invaluable guidance throughout this research. He has taught me the methodology to carry out the research and to present the research works as clearly as possible. It was a great privilege and honour to work and study under his guidance. I am extremely grateful for what he has offered me. I am extending my heartfelt thanks to his colleagues and co-worker for their acceptance and patience during the discussion I had with him on research work and thesis preparation.

I am extremely grateful to my parents and my family for their love, prayers, caring and sacrifices for educating and preparing me for my future. I am very much thankful to my wife and my sons for their love, understanding, prayers and continuing support to complete this research work. Also, I express my thanks to my sister and brothers, sister in law for their support and valuable prayers. My special thanks go to my friends in HS243 Batch 2017 for the keen interest shown to complete this study successfully.

I also thank all the lecturers in the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, Faculty of Health Sciences, UiTM Puncak Alam Campus for their kindness, their thoughts, knowledge, and advice throughout my study in UiTM Puncak Alam. Finally, my thanks go to all the people who have supported me to complete the research work directly or indirectly.

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ABSTRACT

Dengue fever is a very infectious disease and has become a major public health problem in Malaysia. Despite taking many preventive and control measures, there has been a significant increase in the number of cases in Kuala Lumpur in 2019 (i.e., 103.45% increase) than those noted in 2018. Between 2015 and 2018, the Setiawangsa Parliament reported the highest number of dengue fever cases and was regarded as the major epidemic region in Titiwangsa. Dengue fever is related to human activities which are based on human behaviour. Good knowledge, positive attitude and correct practice regarding dengue control are essential to curb the spread of the disease. Hence, this study aims to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the dengue fever amongst the residents living in the regions with the highest number of dengue cases in the Setiawangsa district (i.e Desa Rejang Public Housing), as well as to evaluate association between the KAP in the study location. A community-based study was conducted in a closed, dengue endemic area with multi-storey dwellings. 338 individuals (aged 18 years and above) representing their household members were approached for KAP. The study showed majority of the total participants have good knowledge (91.1%) and 8.9% had adequate knowledge about dengue. Most of the respondents (98.8%) had an excellent attitude toward dengue prevention. Only 9% of the respondent had an excellent practice against dengue, 49.8% with good practice, 29.2% with adequate practice and 12% with poor practice. A Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was computed to assess the relationship between knowledge and attitude, attitude and practice, as well as knowledge and practice. There was no correlation between knowledge and attitude, the same goes for knowledge and practice. Changes in knowledge are not correlated with changes in attitude and practice. There was a positive and statistically significant correlation between attitude and practice, $r = 0.157$, $n = 338$, $p = 0.004$. Increases in attitude level were correlated with increases in the practice level. All sociodemographic variables are the predicator for the respective KAP levels ($P < 0.05$). In conclusion, proactive and sustainable efforts are needed to bring a behavioural change among communities in order to fight dengue outbreaks in endemic areas.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Dengue fever is a very infectious disease which is characterised by headache, high fever, severe joint and muscle pains and rash. It is also known as a dandy fever or break-bone fever. This disease is caused by a virus that belongs to the *Flaviviridae* family of viruses (or Dengue viruses). The dengue-causing viruses are transmitted when the infected female *Aedes* (*Aedes albopictus* or *Aedes aegypti*) mosquitoes bite humans and transmit the virus into the bloodstream (Cheah, *et al*., 2014). 4 types of dengue viruses are known, i.e., DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4. A majority of the dengue cases are noted in the subtropical or tropical regions like South-East Asia or the Caribbean countries. In the early stages, the infected person experiences red spots, rashes, high fever and muscle and joint pain. However, in the severe stages, the person develops a dengue haemorrhagic fever (dengue fever), which leads to severe bleeding, a sudden decrease in the blood pressure (which causes shock) and is fatal (Cheong, *et al*., 2013). The dengue viruses infect people who especially live in dense populations. Till date, these viruses have affected around 50-100 million people in around 100 countries, like Brazil, the Caribbean Islands, India, South America and South-East Asia. More than 50% of the infected people are hospitalised, while 22,000 die every year due to dengue infections. Reports have stated that around 40% of the global population (i.e., 2.5 billion people) live in dengue-endemic regions, where dengue infections are transmitted through the local mosquito bites (Phyu, 2017).

Dengue fever is a tropical infectious disease which also affects many people in Malaysia. Based on the data that has been compiled by the Malaysian Ministry of