

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE ASSESSMENT OF LEPTOSPIROSIS FOR
KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PRACTICE (KAP)
AMONG HIGH RISK COMMUNITY AT RURAL
AND URBAN AREA IN SIBU**

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In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

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ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis is an important zoonotic disease globally and is endemic in Malaysia and there are still lack of studies about leptospirosis at Sibu. A study was conducted at Sibu Sarawak from September 2020 until December 2020 to determine The Assessment of Leptospirosis for Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices (KAP) Among High Risk People at Rural and Urban Area in Sibu. This study determined the knowledge, attitude and preventive practice (KAP) of leptospirosis, and identified the significant predictors influencing KAP among urban community in Sibu, Sarawak.

Keywords

Leptospirosis, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Rural and Urban community

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Study

Leptospirosis, is known as zoonotic disease caused by spirochetes called *Leptospira interrogans*, and it has been affecting the diversity of environment including the community setting including developing and underdeveloped area worldwide (Costa et al., 2015). In addition, these variables also have been highlighted as a causes for high morbidity and mortality rates in these areas such as the socioeconomic status, economy, occupation, recreational activities, association with animals, climate, and rainfall are significantly interrelated with the occurrence of leptospirosis infection (Lau et al., 2010, p. 37). The trend of leptospirosis can be increasing especially at high risk area that consist of topographical area with frequent visit precipitation and floods, environmental change, high number of creature stores, human exercises and other socio-epidemiological impacts (Amilasan et al., 2012, p. 92).

According to World Health Organization (2011), leptospirosis incidence worldwide are reported that 0.1 to 1 per 100,000 population and 10 to 100 per 100,000 could increase especially during seasonal week and among high-risk populations. Though not listed as a Southeast Asia (SEA) country that critically affected from leptospirosis disease, Malaysia Ministry of Health stated that from 2004 until 2009 the number of leptospirosis cases has been dramatically increased, including the number of deaths to 47 and 62 on 2008 and 2009. Perak marked the highest number of cases for leptospirosis from year 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 with 71, 93, 289 and 280 cases. They also reported that states of Sarawak, Selangor dan Terengganu shows increasing trend over the period until 2009 (Suut et al., 2016, p. 452).

Leptospirosis is a notifiable disease after 2010 and becoming endemic in Malaysia (Tan et al., 2016, p. 437). As a largest state in Malaysia, Sarawak also reported that the number of total leptospirosis case has been increased during 2010-2014 with total case 49 in 2010 and 616 case in 2014 and 53 death during that time (Sarawak Health Department, 2014, pp. 1–3).