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arte

Art and Expression

ART + COMMUNITY

**SOCIAL  
HUMANITY**



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## INTRODUCTION

**ARTE: Art and Expression** is a biannual book chapter, published under collaboration of Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Art & Design, UiTM Perak Branch with Galeri Al-Biruni under the supervision of Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. 'ARTE' is an amalgamation of english word 'Art', and malay word, specifically Perak slang 'Ate' which translate as conversation starter. 'ARTE' uses the concept of book chapter that platform art enthusiasts to express their inner-creativity in the form of literacy conjecture

## VISION

Art and expression as aspiration towards stylistic and artistic practices

## MISSION

- To enhance the culture of research and academic publication among academician and artist for international recognition
- To promote intellectual, cultural and knowledge sharing through artistic expression
- To celebrate the diversity and differences in arts practices thus creating and intellectual platform for artist to express their interest in art

## PUBLICATION FREQUENCY

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# DRAIN

a chapter by

MUHAMMAD ASRI BIN AZUDDIN & MOHAMAD ZAIDI BIN SULAIMAN

## Introduction

Remembering the year 2019, when the first case of COVID-19 was found in Malaysia, was the starting point where the emotional decline at every level of society was rocked by the anxiety of thinking about how to continue living. This anxiety was caused by the fear of not knowing how to continue living. It is also made worse by the instability of political institutions and a government that is unstable, both of which contribute to the instability of the economy in the country and contribute to the mental health problems of the people. This is because the majority of people begin to lose their source of income, which in turn leads to a variety of other problems.

During the MCO period, the Ministry of Health Malaysia was able to successfully create a mental health and psychosocial support service institution, as stated on the Ministry of Health Malaysia's official website (Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2021). The Social Support Helpline has taken a total of 122,328 calls between January 1, 2021, and June 18, 2021, with 89.4% of those calls being directly associated with psychiatric concerns.

Photography is used as a medium because it is not constrained by the limitations of language. Additionally, through the utilization of photographs, there is a potential that is difficult to achieve in regard to a mode of thinking that was previously constrained as a result of the setting of one language. (Raggl, 2004) It is true that people's understanding and interpretation of what is written can be altered by the use of images and other types of visual compositions.

## Results of the Study and Debate

Table 1: Number of calls received by the Psychosocial Support Helpline from 1 January 2021 until 18 June 2021 (Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2021).

No.	Kategori	Kumulatif Jumlah Panggilan	Peratus
1	Sokongan emosi/ Kaunseling	109,388	89.42%
2	Maklumat berkenaan COVID-19	6,163	5.04%
3	Isu perhubungan kekeluargaan	2,660	2.17%
4	Aduan umum	2,526	2.06%
5	Keperluan / Bantuan asas	453	0.37%
6	Kerohanian	446	0.36%
7	Isu kesihatan	437	0.36%
8	Penjagaan anak	99	0.08%
9	Psikiatri	68	0.06%
10	Bantuan kewangan	59	0.05%
11	Keganasan/ Keganasan domestik	29	0.02%
	<b>Jumlah Keseluruhan</b>	<b>122,328</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The total number of calls received by the Psychosocial Support Helpline from January 1, 2021, to June 18, 2021 is shown in table 1.0. The Ministry of Health's 11 categories clearly show that the emotional support category recorded the largest cumulative number of calls out of all totals. Even though the data was collected in a short amount of time, this shows that the community sends a clear message about their emotionally disturbed position.

However, 89.42% of the calls are difficult to define or translate into words due to the individual's previous experiences. The idea of presenting this material pictorially can be achieved with a more implicit form of translation by using a digital photographic technique, which allows the audience to appreciate the visual work from the perspective of their own experience, making it easier to interpret more effectively.

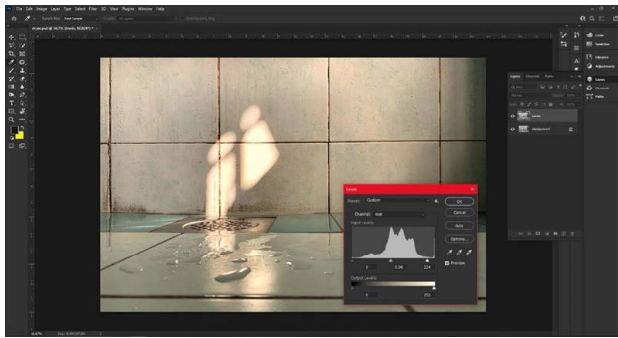


Figure 1: Depicts the DRAIN editing procedure

The rules of thirds were utilised as a compositional device in the taking of this work's portrait in order to open up more space within the image. Indirectly, the use of this device also helps the primary subject to be more noticeable. The light that forms a symbol of men and women is used as the focus point of the main subject to reconnect with the data in Table 1.0, where it does not explain the gender of each caller. The light is used as the focal point to bring attention back to the primary subject. This gender symbolism therefore paints a picture that this mental health condition can happen to anyone without specifically referring to a gender. On the other hand, light is more of a symbol that refers to something that cannot be seen with the human eye, such as spirit, yet, in this particular piece of writing, light is used to refer to a mental condition. As can be seen in image 1.0, DRAIN's work goes through an editing procedure with the help of the Adobe Photoshop editing software. However, just a small amount of colour editing is done for this work as a whole, and the editing method itself does not involve any form of image alteration in any way.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

This piece visually depicts how the mental light of those affected by the experience during the MCO period continued to slowly descend into the drains. In conclusion, throughout the era from 2020 to 2021, the bulk of produced and born works will mostly describe the impact and negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even if this is the case, it is hoped that in the future, the creative phase that arose during this era will serve as a springboard for the responsible parties to become more sensitive and improve any learning shortcomings.

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Sekian, terima kasih.

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Saya yang menjalankan amanah,

**SITI BASRIYAH SHAIK BAHARUDIN**  
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*Setuju.*

*27.1.2023*

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