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Health literacy among communities in protected areas

Submission date	Recruitment status	[_] Prospectively registered
22/06/2023	No longer recruiting	[X] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[_] Statistical analysis plan
24/06/2023	Ongoing	[_] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[_] Individual participant data
10/01/2025	Other	[_] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol
Background and study aims
Health literacy plays a crucial role in empowering individuals to make healthy decisions in their life. However, protected areas communities face unique challenges that hinder their health literacy levels. This study explores the impact of the ecosystem of a protected area on health literacy among the communities. There are some limitations to accessing education, infrastructure, and socioeconomic activities due to the implemented policy of protected area. Thus, this study will identify the relationship of the socioeconomic factors with health literacy and try to propose efficient intervention programs to improve their level of health literacy.

Who can participate?
Adults aged 18 years and above in the population of interest.

What does the study involve?
All participants will receive an explanation of the study. Their informed consent is required before the interview can start. The study will conduct a face-to-face interview between the interviewer and the participant using administered questionnaires. In addition, the body weight, height, waist and hip circumferences, and blood pressure of the respondents will be measured by trained interviewers.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The data collected from this study will give an overview of the health literacy status of the local community in Pahang National Park. The results of the data analysis can be used to determine the intervention program needed by the people in this area. Participants identified as having health problems during the medical screening will be referred for further examination at a nearby health facility. There are no risks of physical injury or harm by taking part in this study. The information gathered from this survey will be sensitively dealt with regarding the individuals and organizations.

Where is the study run from?
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Malaysia

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
October 2021 to December 2026

Who is funding the study?
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Malaysia

Who is the main contact?
Dr Amirah Azzeri, amirah.azzeri@usim.edu.my

Contact information

Type(s)
Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
USIM/JKEP/2022-216

Study information

Scientific Title
Understanding the impact of health literacy among rural communities in protected areas

Study objectives
This study aims to identify the impact of the ecosystem on health literacy status among the rural communities in Pahang National Park. The information gathered here will be used to design an effective intervention program to improve health literacy status and the community's quality of life.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 31/05/2022, Research Ethics Committee, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Persiaran Ilmu Putra Nilai, Bandar Baru Nilai, 71800, Malaysia; +60 3-42892458; info.pppi@usim.edu.my), ref: USIM/JKEP/2022-216

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Observational cross-sectional study

Study type(s)
Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Health literacy status, health status, healthcare utilization, and quality of life

Interventions
This is a cross-sectional study to determine health literacy status, health status, healthcare utilization, and quality of life among the rural communities surrounding Pahang National Park. It will be conducted for a duration of 3 years. Subsequent intervention studies will be conducted based on the findings of this study. The population of interest is the rural communities that reside within the Pahang National Park, Malaysia. The tools and instruments of data collection are:
1. Questionnaires which also include a form for physical examination and observation. The questionnaire will cover topics from socio-demographics, healthcare utilization expenditure and history, lifestyle, and quality of life, housing, and environment, and health literacy status. The physical examinations of the study participants include anthropometric measurements (height, weight, waist circumference, and hip circumference) and blood pressure.
2. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) among the stakeholders who are involved directly with the local communities. The FGD will discuss the issues, opportunities and challenges of health literacy among the communities.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
Current primary outcome measures as of 10/01/2025:
Measured at a single time point:
1. Health status assessed using a questionnaire
2. Healthcare utilization was assessed using a questionnaire
3. Quality of life assessed using a questionnaire
4. Health literacy status using a questionnaire
5. The efficiency of Training of Trainers (ToT) as an intervention program from the Focus Group Discussion and evaluation of the cost-effectiveness.

Previous primary outcome measures:
Measured at a single time point:
1. Health status assessed using a questionnaire
2. Healthcare utilization was assessed using a questionnaire
3. Quality of life assessed using a questionnaire

4. Health literacy status using a questionnaire
5. The efficient intervention programs from the Focus Group Discussion and costing analysis

Key secondary outcome(s)
Measured at a single time point:
1. Blood pressure measured using a calibrated OMRON M2 HEM-7120 Automatic BP Monitor
2. BMI calculated from weight and height measurements using a calibrated SECA 813 digital electronic weighing scale and a calibrated vertical SECA Portable 217 Stadiometer respectively
3. Waist: hip ratio calculated from waist and hip circumference measured using a SECA 201 Ergonomic measuring tape
4. Lifestyle assessed using a questionnaire

Completion date
30/12/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Adult 18 years old and above
2. Member of household surveyed
3. Mental conscious

Participant type(s)
Resident, Population

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. Not part of the household surveyed

Date of first enrolment
01/05/2023

Date of final enrolment
31/08/2023

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Malaysia

Study participating centre
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
Persiaran Ilmu
Putra Nilai
Nilai
Malaysia
71800

Sponsor information

Organisation
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

ROR
https://ror.org/020ast312

Funder(s)

Funder type
University/education

Funder Name
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

Alternative Name(s)
Islamic Science University Of Malaysia, USIM

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Universities (academic only)

Location
Malaysia

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated and/or analyzed during this study will be included in the subsequent results publication

IPD sharing plan summary

Published as a supplement to the results publication

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		29/01/2024	09/02/2024	Yes	No
Participant information sheet	In Malay		23/06/2023	No	Yes