

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TO PREVENTION  
PRACTICES OF HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH  
DISEASE (HFMD) AMONGST MOTHERS  
IN RPR PERMYJAYA  
MIRI, SARAWAK**

**ABSTRACT**

This cross-sectional study was conducted on 288 respondents, comprising the mothers of children registered in Tadika Perpaduan RPR Permyjaya, Miri, Sarawak. The general objective of this study was to investigate the relationship of knowledge and attitudes with HFMD prevention practices amongst mothers. The subjects were selected by universal sampling and data collection method was using the research questionnaires. SPSS analysis by Pearson Chi-Square test was performed to assess the relationship between knowledge and attitudes with HFMD prevention practices. Multiple Logistic Regression test was used to identify the factors that influence the demographic characteristics of HFMD prevention practices. Results showed that there are significant relationship between attitudes toward the threat of disease with HFMD prevention practices (Pearson Chi-Square,  $p < 0.05$ ). In socio-demographic factors, mothers education level influenced the practice of proper hand washing (Exp (B) =0.41,  $p < 0.05$ ). The number of children under 10 years old influenced the practice of covering the mouth and nose while sneezing and coughing among the respondents (Exp(B) =0.44,  $p < 0.05$ ). Age factor is a variable that can influence practice seek immediate medical attention if the child is sick (Exp (B) =1.07,  $p < 0.05$ ). The number of children under 10 years of age variable affect the practice of isolating a sick child (Exp (B) =1.69,  $p < 0.05$ ). Meanwhile, the occupation is a variable that influenced child self care practices at home if the child is sick (Exp (B) =0.32,  $p < 0.05$ ). Descriptive analysis results exhibits 40.6% of respondents are less knowledgeable about HFMD, and 45.8% with a complete lack of support (unfavorable) of HFMD prevention practices. For HFMD prevention practices, 45.5% of respondents do not practice a good prevention practices. In conclusion, the knowledge of the respondents on HFMD is still low. Almost half of the respondents are unfavorable in HFMD prevention practices and also not practicing HFMD prevention behaviors as recommended. There was a significant relationship between attitudes toward the threat of disease and HFMD prevention practices, and there are factors that can influence the demographic characteristics of HFMD prevention practices.