

## ***DOKTOR MUDA PERCEPTION ON THEIR ROLE OF BEHAVIORAL CHANGE IN DENGUE PREVENTION IN CHERAS***

### **ABSTRACT**

The increase of Dengue cases in Kuala Lumpur must be taken seriously especially in the prevention aspect. Dengue prevention is the responsibility of all parties and not health care alone. The role of *Doktor Muda* as the agent of health promotion and peer educator in schools need to be strengthened to assist in the prevention of dengue. The objective of this study is to explore *Doktor Muda's* perception on their role on behavioral change in Dengue prevention among peers in Cheras. This is a qualitative study involving 21 *Doktor Muda* from Year 6 in SK Seri Anggerik and SK Taman Midah 1 by using in-depth interviews. The findings were analyzed based on five main themes and a support theme. Each of the themes have their own sub theme. The study established that there were five groups of activities most frequently mentioned by subjects relating to Dengue prevention activities that comprising advisory role, cleaning the school compound, organizing performance, health campaigns and interactive activities. Advisory role is most often mentioned by the subject. This study also found that the subject could help the health care personnel in the prevention of Dengue and able to change the behavior of their peers. It was all subjects were confident in delivering health care messages. There are three needs to be considered in the future for Dengue prevention activities such as enhance teaching aids, increase training and providing attractive prizes. The main barrier faced by the subject in Dengue prevention activities is poor cooperation from their peers. In summary, *Doktor Muda* is capable to change the behavior of their peers in the prevention of Dengue.