

**FACTORS AFFECTING HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (HFMD)  
PREVENTION PRACTICES AMONG PARENTS / GUARDIANS  
IN SRI AMAN, SARAWAK**

**ABSTRACT**

This study aimed to investigate the factors that influence the practice of HFMD prevention among parents / guardians in Sri Aman, Sarawak. By using PRECEED model as the framework and applying quantitative methods, this study involved 97 respondents among parents or guardians to former patients of HFMD in Sri Aman, Sarawak. Data was collected by using a survey form (pre-tested structured interviewer-administered questionnaire). The sampling method used was purposive sampling. Descriptive analysis was conducted on the sociodemographic and based on the construct within the predisposing, reinforcing and enabling factors. Pearson Correlation statistical analysis was conducted to identify the relationship between these factors. Chi-Square test was used to assess the association between sociodemographic and predisposing factor which focusing on parents attitudes toward prevention practices of HFMD. The results showed that there is a positive correlation between belief and practices towards HFMD prevention whereby other constructs were not significant. A descriptive analysis done on the level of knowledge and belief among the respondents resulted as average whereas majority of respondents (80.4%) showed a positive attitude towards the practice of HFMD prevention. A total of 92.8% practices a good preventive behaviour, while from the perspective of economic and services, 62.9% of respondents said the cost of treatment is reasonable and the service and amenities are satisfactory (76.3%). A total of 99.0% said family and community support influenced their practice in the prevention of HFMD. Looking at the sociodemographic factors, it was found that there was no significant correlation between the educational level and employment status with the attitude towards the practice of effective prevention of HFMD. Overall, though most respondents had a positive attitude, but there are some aspects such as knowledge and beliefs that still need to be improved in developing effective practice by emphasizing the delivery of a clear and precise health messages by using appropriate communication channels.