

**KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES ON DENGUE FEVER AND ITS
PREVENTION AMONGST STUDENTS IN A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN
MALAYSIA**

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ABSTRACT

Dengue fever causes massive worldwide health and economic challenges. It is unfortunate that there is high prevalence of dengue fever in Malaysia in spite of the efforts of the government and organization taken to eradicate and or reduce the incidence of dengue fever incidence. A descriptive cross-sectional quantitative study design was used to find out the knowledge and practices on dengue fever and its prevention among the university students in Malaysia. Self-administered structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 150 students attending a private university in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. The questionnaire focused on the demographic profile, knowledge on transmission mode of dengue fever, biting time of Aedes mosquito, symptoms, breeding sites, mosquito bites prevention and elimination of mosquito breeding sites and practice regarding dengue fever prevention among the respondents. The study revealed that most of the respondents did not know the breeding sites of Aedes mosquito as well as vast majority did not know the correct time of Aedes biting time. More than 64% of respondents never used mosquito coil, spray, repellent cream and net. Most (62%) respondents indicated to clean water storage containers and change water inside them once a week, while vast majority cover water containers at all times and majority prevents standing water at all times at their homes. Most (53.3%) of respondents had moderate overall level of knowledge on dengue fever regarding transmission mode, biting time, symptoms, breeding sites, mosquito bites prevention and elimination of mosquito breeding sites. In terms of practices majority (84.7%) had moderate overall level of practices towards dengue fever prevention. There is a need for health education program among respondents on dengue fever breeding sites as well as knowledge on appropriate Aedes biting time and the need to encourage them to use of mosquito bite prevention on frequent basis practices toward dengue control and prevention.