

ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Health Promoting School in Malaysia: Towards NCD Risk Factor Prevention

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Background: Schools provide an efficient and effective way to reach large numbers of people. In 2013, over 90% children of primary school age and over 80% children of lower secondary school age were enrolled in schools globally. Behaviours and habits are developed in early childhood. The effective way to prevent non-communicable disease (NCD) is from early education as primary prevention. This platform had been in the system since early millennium but the NCD risk factor is still increasing. **Objective:** To review achievement of Health Promoting School in Malaysia. **Method:** Reviewing role of Health Promoting School (HPS) in Malaysia through systematic review. **Results:** In recent decades, HPS has shifted away from preventing diseases and towards promoting and protecting the health and well-being of all pupils, particularly those who are poor and vulnerable. Implementation in Malaysia is supported by the National Education Blueprint 2013 – 2025, earlier policy documents on Health Promoting Schools, Malaysia's current national health promotion programme, and the 1996 and 2010 versions of the Education Act. Health and nutrition programmes such as Safe Schools, Healthy Kids, and One Child One Sport are currently implemented in Malaysian primary schools. Malaysia also has a national school feeding programme and a network of mobile health and medical teams which monitor student health, give dental and medical treatment, and administer deworming and vaccination programmes, among others.

SHCN programmes are administered primarily by Malaysia's Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Health (MOH), but depending on the health initiative being implemented, they often engage the help of other government agencies, local councils, parent-teacher

associations (PTAs), NGOs, and partners from the private sector. **Conclusion:** This platform can be fully utilized and maximised human resource and approach in preventing NCD risk factors as early as in childhood.