

ABSTRACT: ORAL PRESENTATION 02

**A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUICIDE AMONG  
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS OF A SINGLE INSTITUTION IN NORTHWEST  
MALAYSIA**

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**Introduction:** Suicide is a growing global concern due to the mounting incidence and Malaysia is no exception from this burgeoning issue. Healthcare professionals play vital role as the front liners who are in frequent contact with suicidal individuals. Therefore, their attitude towards suicide has an impact on the care and treatment provided to the patients. This study aimed to assess the attitude of healthcare professionals in Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, Perlis, Malaysia towards suicide and the factors influencing their attitude. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was employed. Validated Modified Suicide Opinion Questionnaire was distributed to doctors, nurses and assistant medical officers (n = 487) to investigate their attitude towards suicide. Thirteen departments in Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, Perlis, Malaysia were included. **Results:** Healthcare professionals held unfavourable attitude towards suicide, evidenced by 70% of respondents who generated low score in attitude, with the lowest score found in the “communication and attention” section. Religion (p = 0.027), education level (p = 0.007) and occupation (p = 0.007) were significantly associated with the unfavourable attitude. Further analysis showed that occupation was the only contributing factor to the attitude towards suicide (p = 0.009), where doctors were found to be 2.11 times more likely to have a lower score. **Discussion/ Conclusion:** The results indicated that healthcare professionals, especially doctors, require further training in suicide management. In view of the lowest score in the “Communication and attention” section, future workshops should attempt to incorporate interactive communication skills training and reflective thinking.