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Tarikh : 2 Disember 2011



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Puan,

**LAPORAN AKHIR SKIM GERAN PENYELIDIKAN FUNDAMENTAL (FRGS)**

Tajuk Projek : **Developing a Local-Based Theoretical Understanding of Domestic Violence Against Wives**

No. Akaun : 203/PKANITA/671122

Dengan hormatnya perkara di atas dirujuk.

2. Terlebih dahulu saya ucapkan ribuan terima kasih di atas satu salinan laporan akhir untuk projek penyelidikan seperti tajuk di atas.

3. Adalah dimaklumkan walaupun projek ini telah selesai, kerjasama Jabatan Bendahari dipohon untuk menguruskan penutupan akaun projek pada selewat-lewatnya **31 Disember 2011**. Tempoh ini bertujuan untuk menyelesaikan semua urusan tuntutan dan bayaran yang telah dibelanjakan di dalam tempoh projek. Walau bagaimanapun, puan dinasihatkan supaya tidak mengeluarkan borang-borang pesanan baru di dalam tempoh ini.

4. Selanjutnya sila ambil perhatian terhadap perkara-perkara berikut sekiranya berkaitan:

- (i) Semua penerbitan harus merakamkan penghargaan kepada **Skim Geran Penyelidikan Fundamental (FRGS)** dan puan dipohon mengemukakan satu salinan ke Pejabat ini.
- (ii) Bahagian Penyelidikan & Inovasi boleh/akan mengagihkan semula peralatan yang telah dibeli menggunakan peruntukan geran ini seandainya terdapat penyelidik lain yang memerlukan peralatan tersebut.

5. Akhir sekali, tahniah di atas usaha dan kejayaan pihak puan dapat menyelesaikan projek ini dengan jayanya.

Sekian, terima kasih.

“BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA”  
‘Memastikan Kelestarian Hari Esok’

Yang menjalankan tugas,

  
(AMRA OTHMAN)  
Penolong Pendaftar  
Unit Pengurusan Geran & Kontrak

HAN, HAR, SM

# LAPORAN AKHIR SKIM GERAN PENYELIDIKAN FUNDAMENTAL (FRGS)

Tajuk Projek : Developing a Local-Based Theoretical Understanding of Domestic Violence Against Wives

No. Akaun : 203/PKANITA/671122

s.k. Dekan Penyelidikan  
Pelantar Sains Fundamental  
Pejabat Pelantar Penyelidikan  
Universiti Sains Malaysia

Pengarah  
Pusat Penyelidikan Pembangunan Wanita  
Universiti Sains Malaysia



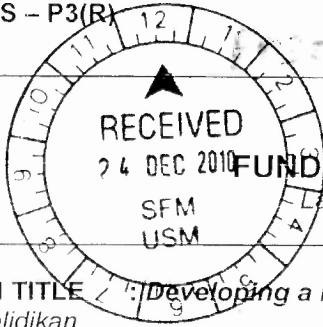
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Universiti Sains Malaysia

Pegawai Sains  
Pelantar Sains Fundamental  
Pejabat Pelantar Penyelidikan  
Universiti Sains Malaysia

Disampaikan satu salinan laporan akhir projek untuk simpanan Perpustakaan

Mohon kerjasama pihak puan untuk menguruskan penutupan akaun projek selewat-lewatnya pada 31 Disember 2011 dan mohon kemukakan satu salinan penyata kewangan terakhir ke Pejabat ini untuk tujuan rekod



## FINAL REPORT

## FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME (FRGS)

Laporan Akhir Skim Geran Penyelidikan Asas (FRGS) IPT  
Pindaan 1/2009

**A RESEARCH TITLE :** *Developing a local-based theoretical understanding of domestic violence against wives*  
Tajuk Penyelidikan

**PROJECT LEADER :** NORAIDA ENDUT  
Ketua Projek

**PROJECT MEMBERS (including GRA) :**  
Ahli Projek

1. INTAN HASHIMAH MOHD HASHIM
2. AZMAN AZWAN AZMAWATI

**PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT (Prestasi Projek)**

B

## ACHIEVEMENT PERCENTAGE

Project progress according to milestones achieved up to this period

0 - 50%

51 - 75%

76 - 100%

Percentage

√(100%)

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

Number of articles/ manuscripts/ books

Indexed Journal

Non-Indexed Journal

\*Chapters in book

\*3

Paper presentations

International

National

4

Others  
(Please specify)

## HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Human Capital

Number

On-going

Graduated

Others (Please specify):

1 Master student registered in August 2008 but had to postpone her candidacy from Nov 2009 due to personal issues.

PhD Student

Masters Student

Undergraduate Students

Temporary Research Officer

Temporary Research Assistant

1

Total

1

**EXPENDITURE (Perbelanjaan)**

C **Budget Approved (Peruntukan diluluskan)** : RM 35,000.00  
**Amount Spent (Jumlah Perbelanjaan)** : RM 34,929.20  
**Balance (Baki)** : RM 70.80  
**Percentage of Amount Spent** : 99.8%  
*(Peratusan Belanja)*

**ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS DEVELOPING SOFT AND HARD SKILLS**  
*(Aktiviti Penyelidikan Sampingan yang menyumbang kepada pembangunan kemahiran insaniah)*

D

<b>International</b>		
Activity	Date (Month, Year)	Organizer
(e.g : Course/ Seminar/ Symposium/ Conference/ Workshop/ Site Visit)		
<i>XXth Congress of the International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology</i>	<i>7-10 July, 2010</i>	<i>International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology</i>
<i>International Congress of Applied Psychology</i>	<i>11-16 July 2010</i>	<i>International Association of Applied Psychology</i>
<b>National</b>		
Activity	Date (Month, Year)	Organizer
(e.g : Course/ Seminar/ Symposium/ Conference/ Workshop/ Site Visit)		
<i>Statistics course</i>	<i>July 2008</i>	<i>School of Mathematical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia</i>

**PROBLEMS / CONSTRAINTS IF ANY (Masalah/ Kekangan sekiranya ada)**

E [The research process generally went well with excellent cooperation from agencies involved in providing respondents for the research. However, due to the outbreak of H1N1 in 2009, a few planned interviews had to be rescheduled. This is not a major problem since the research was still able to be completed on time]

**RECOMMENDATIONS (Cadangan Penambahbaikan)**

F

**RESEARCH ABSTRACT – Not More Than 200 Words**(Abstrak Penyelidikan – Tidak Melebihi 200 patah perkataan)

G

*Few studies have been carried out on in Malaysia that can contribute to the debates on the influences of societal and cultural norms on the acceptance and prevalence of wife abuse. Such localized study is highly pertinent to sustain, modify or reject these debates. By focusing on the youths of Malaysia, this research investigates how cultural norms contribute towards the acceptance of violent behaviour between spouses amongst the Malaysia population, assesses the influence of religious and cultural beliefs on such acceptance and examines the relationship between youths' ideas about the position of men and women in society and their understanding about domestic violence against wives. The study is conducted by administering questionnaires to 600 participants sampled from amongst the trainees at four National Service Training Centres (PLKN) in Peninsular Malaysia. The trainees are considered a representative sample because they consist of young adults of both sexes and they come from a variety of background and geographical areas of origins. This research seeks to better understand an aspect of the social life in Malaysia. It is significant in developing new social scientific knowledge of society with the ultimate aim of improving universal quality of life.*

Date : 10/12/2010  
Tarikh

Project Leader's Signature:  
Tandatangan Ketua Projek



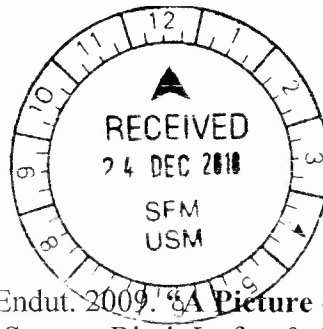
**COMMENTS, IF ANY/ ENDORSEMENT BY RESEARCH MANAGEMENT CENTER (RMC)**  
(Komen, sekiranya ada/ Pengesahan oleh Pusat Pengurusan Penyelidikan)

H

Name:  
Nama:

Signature:  
Tandatangan:

Date:  
Tarikh:

LIST OF PUBLICATION TO DATE:

Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim & Noraida Endut. 2009. **"A Picture of Violence from a Malaysian Perspective"**. In Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar & McCarthy, Sheri. *Building Asian Families and Communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Selected Proceeds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Psychological Association Conference*. Newcastle Upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim & Noraida Endut. 2009. **"A Study on Attitude Towards Domestic Violence"**. In Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar & McCarthy, Sheri. *Building Asian Families and Communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Selected Proceeds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Psychological Association Conference*. Newcastle Upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Noraida Endut & Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim. 2011. **"The nature and impact of domestic violence: a study of survivors of wife abuse in Malaysia"**. In Ng, Cecilia, Noraida Endut & Rashidah Shuib. *Our Lived Realities: Reading Gender in Malaysia*. Penang: Penerbit USM [Approved for publication. Reviewed manuscript submitted for printing on 2 December 2010]

LIST OF PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim & Noraida Endut. **"A Picture of Violence from a Malaysian Perspective"**. Paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Asian Psychological Association (APsyA), Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 26-28 June 2008.

Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim & Noraida Endut. **"A Study on Attitude Towards Domestic Violence"**. Paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Asian Psychological Association (APsyA). Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: 26-28 June 2008.

Endut, N., Hashim, IHM & Azman AA. **"Young adults perceptions of marriage and domestic violence"**. Paper presented at the XXth Congress of the International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology (IACCP). Melbourne, Australia: 7-10 July 2010.

Endut, N., Hashim, IHM & Azman AA. **"The relationship between interpretation of religion and understanding about gender roles in marriage and the family"**. Paper presented at the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP2010). Melbourne, Australia: 11-16 July 2010

# Building Asian Families and Communities in the 21st Century

Building Asian Families and Communities in  
the 21st Century:  
Selected Proceeds of the 2nd Asian  
Psychological Association Conference, Kuala  
Lumpur, Malaysia, June, 2008

Edited by

Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar and Sherri McCarthy



Building Asian Families and Communities in the 21st Century: Selected Proceeds of the 2nd Asian Psychological Association Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June, 2008, Edited by Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar and Sherri McCarthy

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This book is dedicated to our colleagues and friends in the Asian Psychological Association. Thank you for helping us to establish psychology as a vital and important academic discipline and a respected profession throughout Asia. We also thank the faculty, administrators and staff at Universiti Malaya for their support in carrying out the conference and preparing this book of proceedings. This book is also dedicated to Ayesha and her brothers Ikhwan and Irfan, and to Leif Janes and his cousin. May the world in which they are growing up become a more connected and healthier place to live thanks to the international influence of psychology.

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# PREFACE

This book is intended to be an overview of current research in psychology throughout Asia, including papers that demonstrate the adaptation of the discipline to issues specific to families within that region of the world. These papers were presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Asian Psychological Association hosted by the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during June, 2008. The Asian Psychological Association (APsya) was founded in Bali, Indonesia in August, 2006 to give voice to academic psychologists from all countries teaching throughout Asia and to psychologists practicing in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, the Philippines and other countries on the Asian continent. Until recently, no large professional organization existed for Asian psychologists. National associations flourished in some countries within Asia, and trans-national organizations existed in some specialty areas, such as the Asian Social Psychology Association based in the Philippines. Asian psychologists affiliated to some degree with international organizations such as the International Council of Psychologists (ICP), International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS) and even the American Psychological Association (APA). In fact, IUPsyS held their world congress in Beijing in 2004, and there have been several sessions devoted to Asian psychology at recent APA conventions. Psychology teaching in Asia also has long-standing ties to psychology in Australia as maintained by the Australian Psychological Society (APS), in large part because of the number of distance education programs in psychology based in Australia that are offered throughout Asia. Until recently, however, there has not been an overarching professional society for psychologists within Asia to provide resources to teachers or to oversee training, program accreditation, quality control, recommendations for licensure and other important issues. That is changing, however. Based on perceived needs expressed by Asian psychologists at a regional conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia, Professor Sarlito Sarwano approached ICP at their July, 2005 Brazil convention about the need for beginning a separate association for Asian psychologists to specifically meet the growing needs of psychologists in that rapidly-developing part of the world. IAAP President Mike Knowles, also in attendance, was supportive and continued planning and laying of groundwork through the IAAP regional convention in Thailand later that year. IAAP offered support to the new organization, and the Asian Psychological Association (APsya) began developing rapidly, offering conferences within Asia every two years and beginning to build the infrastructure necessary to sponsor Asian psychology journals and develop competencies and training recommendations for psychologists who practice within Asia. The first convention of APsya took place in Bali, Indonesia during August, 2006. The second was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during June, 2008 and this volume contains selected proceedings from that convention. The Third International Conference of the Asian Psychological Association will be at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia during July, 2010. Professor Mike Knowles of Monash University, Australia and current president of the International Association of Applied Psychology, offers the following report of the first convention, available at the organization's website:

The First Convention of the Asian Psychological Association (APsya) was held in Bali from 18-20th August 2006. This historic event marked the founding of the APsya which is the first association in the Asian region with an individual membership spanning the whole field of psychology. The conference was organized under the Presidency of Sarlito Sarwano and its Scientific Program covered matters such as indigenous Asian psychology, the contributions of psychology towards national development, and special issues in Asia. The principal symposium of the conference dealt with terrorism and covered research into the psychology of terrorists, the process by which people become terrorists, and the rehabilitation of terrorists. This convention of the Asian Psychological Association (APsya) was an historic event for two reasons. Firstly it marked the founding of the APsya with the adoption of a constitution, the election of its principal Office Bearers, the election of its Board of Directors, and the creation of its initial membership. A momentous moment such as it was in Bali was an exciting time for everyone who had the privilege of being there, and credit is due to every member of the interim committee who worked so diligently in establishing the Association. Secondly, this was the inaugural convention of APsya and had as its theme "Asian solidarity in diversity: Towards a better quality of life in Asia." The principal organizer was Sarlito Sarwano from the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Indonesia, and the conference was supported not only by this university but also Tarumanagara University, the Catholic University of Indonesia, the Indonesian Police Force, the International Council of Psychologists, Division 52 (International Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, and the International Association of Applied Psychology with which APsya has a tandem relationship.

The conference, held at the Bali Hilton Hotel, attracted 113 participants (not including members of the local organizers, who were mostly Indonesian psychologists) from 17 countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the Netherlands, England, Canada and the United States. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Sarlito Sarwano who, together with ICP President Chok Hiew representing the International Council of Psychologists (ICP) and IAAP President Mike Knowles representing the International Association of Applied Psychology, welcomed all delegates. What was stressed was the importance of having an association whose members were either Asians themselves or conducted research into Asian issues and were thus interested in developing indigenous schools of thought and paradigms as well as ways by

means of which psychologists in the region could contribute to their region's development both socially and economically. The opening of the conference was followed by an elegant display of traditional Balinese dancing and an exquisite performance of Balinese music. The closing ceremony was chaired by Sarlito Sarwono who thanked all delegates for coming from near and far to be both founding members of APsya as well as participants in its inaugural convention. He expressed his thanks also to members of the Organizing Committee which, he emphasized, worked as a team to make the conference possible. In turn, expressions of congratulations and gratitude came from all around the room to both Sarlito Sarwono and the Organizing Committee not only for its success but also the wonderful experience which everyone had who were fortunate enough to attend the conference. The Scientific Program covered a wide range of topics but by and large these could be grouped around four main themes, namely, family, women and children's issues in Asia; indigenous Asian psychology; contributions towards national development; and societal issues in Asia. The latter group could have included the question of terrorism but since this was the primary symposium of the conference it was treated as a theme in its own right.

The Asian Psychological Association is not the only organization of psychologists in Asia but it is the first association with an individual membership whose interests traverse the whole field of psychology as well as specialize in particular areas such as cross-cultural psychology and inter-ethnic psychology. As such it supplements the activities of the Asian Social Psychology Association and the Asian Cognitive Behavior Therapy Association, both associations of individual psychologists, and the ASEAN Regional Union of Psychology Societies (ARUPS) which is an association of national societies of psychology closely affiliated with the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS). Thus, and the point was made in one of the Conference Keynote Addresses by past APA President and current IAAP President-Elect Ray Fowler, psychology is growing and indeed booming in Asia which some day should become the largest region of psychology in the world. Already it is firmly established in some countries and will become increasingly so in the years ahead. In this context it can be seen that this conference has given a major impetus to this development. In this regard one of the delightful outcomes of the conference could be witnessed in the sessions in which individual papers were read. On a number of occasions there was timely mutual support with respect to language and statistics, and the appreciation and bonding that resulted from this was warming and powerful. Perhaps the other major achievement of the conference was the symposium on terrorism and the bringing together of so many people who were researching and working on this issue which is one of the world's most pressing problems. The importance of this symposium is attested to by the fact that it was attended by representative of two of the foreign embassies located in Jakarta. This symposium has a huge potential to change the way terrorism is understood by both the general public and policy makers alike, and the manner by which the challenge of terrorism is dealt with and managed.

(Available at <http://www.cdu.edu.au/apsya/committee.html> ).

Following the first conference in Bali, the organization continued to gain momentum. The University of Malaya hosted the next conference, organized by APsya President-elect Associate Professor Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar. Professor Sarlito Sarwono summarizes that convention as follows:

The theme for the Kuala Lumpur convention was: **Building Asian Families and Communities in the 21st Century**. It was sponsored by the University of Malaya ... On Thursday the 26th of June, the convention commenced with the Board of Directors meeting at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, which ran the whole morning and afternoon. The convention opened with a gala evening which included a dinner reception and cultural show held at the Gazebo of Perdanasiswa, University of Malaya for all conference registrants. The convention itself was formally opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, on Friday, 27th June, at 9.00 am. Welcoming speeches were provided by Professor Sarlito Sarwono, the President of APsya, and Professor Mike Knowles, the President of IAAP. The closing ceremony was officiated over by Professor Kate Moore (the organization's new President-elect) who thanked the University and community, especially Associate Professor Jas Laile and her team of helpers who made this such a warm and friendly convention for us all. (Available at <http://www.cdu.edu.au/apsya/committee.html> ).

The convention was well attended and Asia was well represented by participants from over 20 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Macau, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Swaziland, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam and the USA. There were 172 oral presentations in 27 sessions and 4 poster sessions with 27 posters, presented by 341 authors and co-authors. There were also symposia, two round table discussions, one lecture, one workshop, and four keynote addresses. The number of participants was relatively large compared to other conventions of similar psychology organizations. Keynote speakers included Professor Hogop Pambokian who spoke on Asian representation in internationally-published psychology journals and the need to increase publications by Asian psychologists; Dr. David P. Schmitt who spoke on comparative quality of life in countries throughout Asia and the rest of the world; Tian Po Oei and Mohamed Fadzil bin Che Din. Regarding APsya and its next conference, Professor Kate Moore writes:

The APsya Board met and adopted amendments to the Constitution, confirmed the Board of Directors for 2008-2010 and established the venue for the 3rd Conference to be Darwin, Australia in 2010. The Asian Psychological Association (APsya) is an international organization of researchers, academics and clinicians interested in diverse aspects of applied and basic psychology within the Asian region. It is with pleasure that we announce that the 3rd APsya Conference will be held in Darwin, Australia. This is an exciting opportunity for national and international scholars to meet and exchange ideas. On behalf of the Conference and Scientific Committees I warmly invite you to join us in Darwin in 2010. Just as our inaugural conference in Bali (2006) and our second conference in Kuala Lumpur (2008) provided opportunities for the exchange of ideas and network building within the region so too in 2010 I am also sure you will find that APsya is conducive to a friendly environment with a high standard of scientific input. On behalf of all members of the committee,

we look forward to meeting with you at the conference. Asian Psychological Association (APsyA) was declared in Jakarta, Indonesia on Monday, August 15th, 2005, at the first convention of the Asian Council of Psychologists on the initiative of Professor Sarlito Sarwono working in consultation with colleagues from IAAP, ICP and universities in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. APsyA operated with an interim President, Professor Sarwono, and Board of Directors prior to the adoption of its Constitution and appointment of a Board of Directors [including Professor Sarwono as President, Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar as President-Elect, and Foundation Board members including Sherri McCarthy (USA), Naty Dayan (Philippines), Monty Satiadarma (Indonesia), Tian Po Oei (Australia), Ray Fowler (USA) and Kate Moore (Australia)] in August, 2006, at the first conference of the Asian Psychological Association held in Bali, Indonesia. The mission of the Asian Psychological Association (APsyA) is to promote the science and practice of psychology and to facilitate interaction and communication among Asian psychologists and other psychologists interested in Asian psychology. Since this time, the Association has held a bi-annual conference, the 2nd of which was held in Kuala Lumpur 2008, hosted by Associate Professor Jas Laile Suzana Binti Jaafar at the University of Malaya. The 3rd APsyA conference will be held in Darwin, Australia during July 2010 at Charles Darwin University. The APsyA Board meets immediately prior to each conference. (More information is available at <http://www.cdu.edu.au/apsya/committee.html> ).

The current priorities of the Asian Psychological Association include assisting Asian psychologists in finding venues to publish their research and establishing standards and competencies for training and licensing of psychologists in Asia. As psychology in Asia continues to grow and develop at lightning speed, it is likely that this organization will also grow and develop, supporting psychologists and those who teach psychology, in Asia throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The 3<sup>rd</sup> conference of APsyA will be held in July, 2010 and we encourage all of you reading this with an interest in Asian psychology to attend, and to watch for future volumes of APsyA conference proceedings.

Sherri McCarthy—August, 2009  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**OUR LIVED REALITIES:**

**Reading Gender in Malaysia**

**Cecilia Ng, Noraida Endut and Rashidah Shuib (editors)**

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**Our Lived Realities: Reading Gender in Malaysia**  
**Cecilia Ng, Noraida Endut and Rashidah Shuib (editors)**

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# A Picture of Violence from a Malaysian Perspective<sup>1</sup>

Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim

Noraida Endut

Pusat Penyelidikan Pembangunan Wanita (KANITA)

University Sains Malaysia

## Abstract

Studies that reflect the local-specific dynamics of domestic violence in Malaysia are scarce. This paper aims to discuss the nature and patterns of domestic violence in the country based on a study of records available at Malaysian hospitals. In the study, secondary data from One-Stop-Crisis-Centres (OSCC) at Hospital Pulau Pinang, Hospital Melaka and Hospital Kuala Lumpur were examined. The data comprised a set of six-monthly brief statistics and another set of more detailed data of 206 female patients seeking treatment at the Hospital Kuala Lumpur's OSCC. The study found that survivors of domestic violence came from various ethnic, religious, age and academic background. However, they are overwhelmingly Malay. Most survivors were married and the abusers were mainly their husbands. More than 80 per cent of the survivors had experienced abuse once or more times before. All survivors suffered some forms of physical injuries that required urgent medical treatment. A few reported other kind of abuses including those of verbal and emotional in nature. Comparisons were made between these findings and findings from other studies both in Malaysia and internationally.

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<sup>1</sup> The study on which this paper is based was conducted in conjunction with the on-going research on "Developing a local-based theoretical understanding of domestic violence against wives" under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (203/PKANITA/671122). The authors would like to express appreciation to the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia for awarding the grant.



# A Study on Attitude towards Domestic Violence<sup>1</sup>

Intan Hashimah Mohd Hashim

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Universiti Sains Malaysia

## Abstract

Incidents of domestic violence reflect people's attitude towards gender relations in the family and marriage. This paper discusses general attitudes towards domestic violence and factors that may be related to the attitudes. The discussion is based on a study on university students' attitude towards domestic violence. In the study, respondents comprised 384 students of Universiti Sains Malaysia. Socio-demographic factors were identified as including academic achievement, ethnic, religion, marital status, gender, year in the university, and experience with domestic violence. Personality factors included respondents' perceived level of religiosity and their perceived relationships with God. The study found there was a tendency for the respondents to agree with statements concerning the sacredness of the marriage and the power of the husbands. Five factors appeared to be related to student's attitudes towards domestic violence: ethnic, religion, academic achievement, perceived religiosity and perceived relationship with God. Malays and Muslims were more likely to have higher acceptance of domestic violence. Similarly, people who reported lower academic achievement and who saw themselves as religious and having close relationship with God were more likely to accept domestic violence. In this paper, findings are discussed within the context of the socio-cultural approach to family violence.

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<sup>1</sup> The study on which this paper is based was conducted in conjunction with the on-going research on "Developing a local-based theoretical understanding of domestic violence against wives" under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (203/PKANITA/671122). The authors would like to express appreciation to the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia for awarding the grant.



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