



4th International Conference on
GLOBAL HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION
November 07-08, 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

TITLE: Knowledge and perception towards abortion among Klang Valley population in Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Abortion is a one of the serious public health issues, and it poses high risks to the health and life of women. Many people are unaware of laws pertaining to abortion. This cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the level of knowledge and perception towards abortion among Klang Valley population in Malaysia using voluntary sampling method. More than half of the respondents (63.17%) were female with the age between 20-29 years (54.99%) and single (61.64%). Most of the respondents (90%) had tertiary education and 47.83% of them were employed. 70.09% of the respondents belonged to the B40 (<RM4,850 per month) income group. Significant associations were found between age, ethnicity, religion, level of education, marital status, and their perception towards abortion. Providing unbiased and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and empowerment programs are crucial to prevent negative consequences of abortion in Malaysia.

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Mode of Presentation: Oral

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BIOGRAPHY

Kyaw Ko Latt is a senior lecturer in public health discipline at Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) in Malaysia. He holds a medical degree from the University of Medicine (1), Yangon, Myanmar and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand. He has over 8 years of expertise in humanitarian operations with a variety of organizations, (including WHO, UNICEF, UNODC, Save the Children International, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, ICAP at Columbia University) in different countries. Academically, he has over 9 years of teaching and supervision experience in three different medical universities in Malaysia.