

Norrafizah Jaafar<sup>1</sup>, Zanariah Zaini<sup>1</sup>, Noorlaile Jasman<sup>1</sup>, Aimi Nadiah Mohamad Norzlen<sup>1</sup> & Muhammad Irsyad Zainal Bahrin<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Health Behavioural Research, National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia

(NMRR ID -22-00689-JLC)

Introduction

The stability of the blood donation system in Malaysia depends on the willingness of voluntary donors. Blood transfusion centers devote great efforts to promoting blood donation among the population. Securing stable blood sources is one of the primary missions of a blood donation center. However, barriers might prevent a donation attempt.

Purpose of the study

Identify the barriers that prevent whole-blood donors from encouraging them to donate blood regularly.

Result

A total of **1,426 whole-blood donors** aged from **18 to 66 years old** participated.

Gender



Male  
64.7% (923)



Female  
35.3% (503)

Ethnicity



Malay  
57.3% (817)



Chinese  
33.0% (470)



Indian  
7.0% (100)



Bumiputra Sabah  
1.1% (15)



Bumiputra Sarawak  
0.4% (5)



Others  
1.3% (19)



Description

Level of education:

	%	n
No formal education	0.3%	4
Primary school	1.1%	16
Secondary school	22.2%	317
Certificate/ diploma	31.6%	451
Bachelor's/ Master/Ph.d	44.5%	634
Missing data	0.3%	4

Occupation:

	%	n
Self-employed	21.6	308
Government employee	12.0	171
Private employee	51.9	740
Student	8.0	114
Unemployed	5.8	83
Missing data	0.7	10

Marital Status:

	%	n
Single	43.2	616
Married	52.5	749
Widower/ divorce	2.9	42
Separated	1.3	19

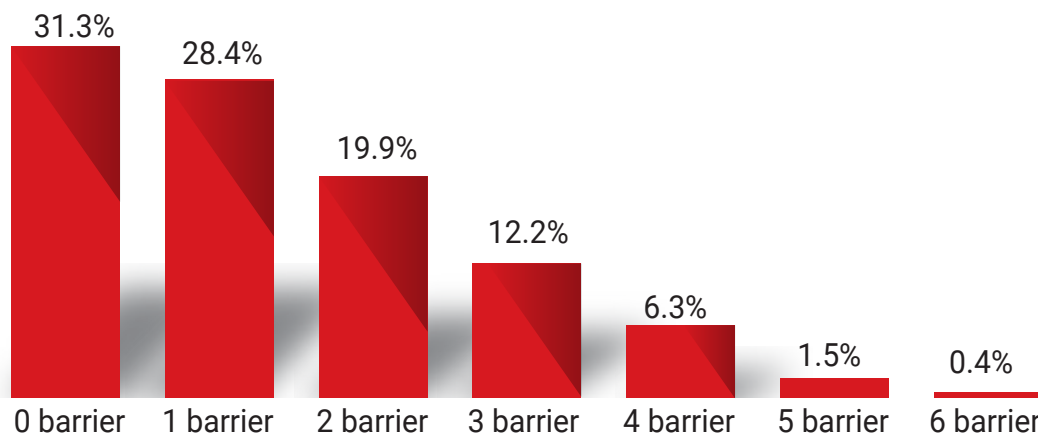
Barriers to blood donation attempts among whole-blood donors:

Unaware that a blood supply is needed (63.8%) is the main barrier to donating blood regularly (Table 1). The result also found that a total of 31.3% (447) participants claimed that they do not face any barriers to donating whole blood regularly. However, among those who had barriers, 28.4% (405) faced at least a single barrier, and only 0.4% (5) faced six barriers (Chart 1).

Table 1: Reason for not donating blood regularly

Description <i>I do not donate blood regularly because...</i>	Mean (SD)	Strongly disagree n (%)	Disagree n (%)	Not sure n (%)	Agree n (%)	Strongly agree n (%)
I feel uncomfortable with the blood donation place/ facility which I visited.	2.70 (1.32)	312 (21.9)	423 (29.7)	263 (18.4)	252 (17.7)	176 (12.3)
The blood donation place is far.	2.43 (1.24)	389 (27.3)	443 (31.1)	284 (19.9)	200 (14.0)	110 (7.7)
I do not know if the blood supply is needed.	3.76 (1.16)	64 (4.5)	167 (11.7)	285 (20.0)	444 (31.1)	466 (32.7)
There is no blood donation campaign near me.	3.72 (1.20)	79 (5.5)	195 (13.7)	217 (15.2)	490 (34.4)	445 (31.2)
I am busy	3.47 (1.25)	98 (6.9)	281 (19.7)	267 (18.7)	415 (29.1)	365 (25.6)
I do not like the service given by the staff.	1.85 (0.93)	593 (41.6)	565 (39.6)	174 (12.2)	68 (4.8)	26 (1.8)
I failed to donate blood before.	3.63 (1.18)	78 (5.5)	196 (13.7)	304 (21.3)	444 (31.1)	404 (28.3)

Chart 1: Number of barriers faced by the participants



Conclusion

This study showed that a single barrier might prevent a donation attempt for whole blood donors to donate blood regularly even though they are willing to do so, which might affect the blood supply later.

Funding

This study was registered under the National Medical Research Registry (NMRR ID-22-02827-RJL), and no funding was required. The Medical Research Ethics Committee granted ethics approval.

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our gratitude to the Director General of Health and Deputy General of Health (Research and Technical Support) Malaysia for allowing this presentation at the 15th MOH-AMM Scientific Meeting dated 20-22.08.2024. We would also like to express our appreciation for all the support from all parties that have contributed directly or indirectly to completing this study.

References

- NBC, N.B.C. 2016. Transfusion practice guidelines for clinical and laboratory personnel. Vol. 4. Ministry of Health.
- Mohamad Yunus, N. 'ain, Mat Ali, S.A. & Abdul Kader Jailani, S.F. 2019. Understanding Blood Donor Intention: Towards Sustainable Blood Supply in Malaysia. Malaysian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (MJSSH) 4(4): 36–45. [www.msocalsciences.comwww.msocalsciences.com](http://www.msocalsciences.comwww.msocalsciences.com).
- Sham, N., Sopian, M.M., Mohamad, W.H.W. & Din, S.A.T. 2019. Motivating factors and potential deterrents for blood donation among young blood donors in Kelantan, Malaysia. Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences 15(3): 7–14.
- M'Sallem, W. 2022. Role of motivation in the return of blood donors: mediating roles of the socio-cognitive variables of the theory of planned behavior. International Review on Public and Nonprofit Marketing 19(1): 153–166. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12208-021-00295-2>.
- Jalalian, M., Latiff, L., Hassan, S.T.S., Hanachi, P. & Othman, M. 2010. Development of a questionnaire for assessing factors predicting blood donation among university students: A pilot study. Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health 41(3): 660–666.
- Mohammed, S. & Essel, H.B. 2018. Motivational factors for blood donation, potential barriers, and knowledge about blood donation in first-time and repeat blood donors. BMC Hematology 18(1): 1–9
- Kasraian, L. & Maghsudlu, M. 2012. Blood donors' attitudes towards incentives: Influence on motivation to donate. Blood Transfusion 10(2): 186–190.