

Suitability of the European Health Literacy Survey (HLS-EU) in the Malaysian Setting: An Instrument Validation study

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Measuring health literacy helps researchers to calculate society's health and risk behaviors to improve health outcomes. However, instruments used to measure health literacy may not necessarily be a one-size-fit-all tool. This paper explores the suitability of a widely used health literacy instrument in Europe, the HLS-EU, in Malaysian setting. Specifically, we tested the 47 items of Health Literacy Components in HLS-EU to see how well the instrument performs in the Malaysian setting. The study involved 600 participants and responses from the health literacy components were examined using

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA). The results showed moderate level of suitability for the health literacy component based on selected Goodness-Of-Fit (GOF) model index suitability criteria. We further explored an alternative model by omitting ten items with low index suitability. The GOF for this model was even better. We suggest a 37 items of HLS in Malaysian setting.