

PERCEPTION OF MOTHERS TOWARDS MALE NURSING  
STUDENTS DURING CLINICAL PRACTICE IN OBSTETRIC WARD  
IN HOSPITAL UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

SITI NUR HASANAH BINTI AHMAD YUSUF

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

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by

SITI NUR HASANAH BINTI AHMAD YUSUF

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HUSM: Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia .....	7
MNB: Malaysia Nursing Board .....	6
MQA: Malaysian Qualifications Agency .....	5
HREC: Human Research Ethics Committee .....	29
USM: Universiti Sains Malaysia .....	6
AWHONN: Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nursing.....	9
HBM: Health Belief Model .....	16
SPSS: Statistical Package Sciences Software .....	33

**Persepsi Ibu-ibu Terhadap Pelajar Kejururawatan Lelaki Semasa Praktikal  
Klinikal di Wad Obstetrik di Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia**

**ABSTRAK**

Di kebanyakan negara, wanita mendominasi bidang kejururawatan. Cabaran sosial terhadap pelajar kejururawatan lelaki mengakibatkan diskriminasi daripada pesakit dan penjaga. Hal ini telah menyekat keupayaan mereka untuk mendapatkan kemahiran yang mereka perlukan dan menjejaskan pengalaman praktikal klinikal mereka sehingga membawa kepada jurang teori-klinikal. Di samping itu, pelajar kejururawatan lelaki kurang mendapat peluang melakukan prosedur semasa di ward obstetrik berbanding rakan sekerja perempuan mereka akibat diskriminasi ini. Kajian keratan rentas telah dilakukan untuk mengkaji persepsi ibu-ibu terhadap pelajar kejururawatan lelaki semasa praktikal klinikal di Wad Obstetrik, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. Sebanyak 124 ibu di Hospital USM yang memenuhi kriteria kemasukan dan pengecualian telah dipilih secara rawak. Data yang dikumpul dianalisis secara statistik menggunakan perisian SPSS versi 26.0. Ujian statistik Pearson's Chi-Square telah digunakan untuk analisis data. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa 75 (60.5%) ibu mempunyai tanggapan positif dan 49 (39.5%) ibu mempunyai tanggapan negatif terhadap pelajar kejururawatan lelaki. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa tidak terdapat perkaitan yang signifikan antara faktor sosio-demografi yang dipilih (umur, tahap pendidikan dan pilihan jantina) dengan tahap tanggapan ibu terhadap pelajar kejururawatan lelaki ( $p=0.197$ ), ( $p=0.060$ ) dan ( $p=0.649$ ) masing-masing.

## **Perception of Mothers towards Male Nursing Students during Clinical Practice in Obstetric Ward in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia**

### **ABSTRACT**

In many countries, women continue to dominate the nursing field. Social challenges for male nursing students result in discrimination from patients and caregiver. This restricts their ability to get the skills they need and affects their clinical practise experience, leading to a theory-practice gap. In addition, male nursing students have less opportunity to perform procedures while on the obstetric ward than their female colleagues as a result of this bias. A cross-sectional study was carried out to study the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. A total of 124 mothers in Hospital USM who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria were selected randomly. Data collected were statistically analysed using the SPSS software version 26.0. Pearson's Chi-Square were used for data analysis. This study shows that 75 (60.5%) of mothers have a positive level and 49 (39.5%) of mothers have a negative level perception towards male nursing students. The result of this present study revealed that there is no significant association of selected socio demographic factors (age, educational level and gender preference) with the level of mothers' perception towards male nursing students ( $p=0.197$ ), ( $p=0.060$ ) and ( $p=0.649$ ) respectively.

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Nurses have been increasingly important and beneficial in the health-care system in recent years. Patients' expectations of nurses as front-line services have a motivation on their performance to become more compassionate and efficient in the numerous roles they play during applying patient care. Nurses must meet strict criteria for their roles as caregivers, counsellors, educators, advocates, coordinators, and communicators. Despite the changing times, male nurses constitute a small minority of the nursing profession. As a result led to nursing being seen as primarily a female career (Cottingham, 2014).

Since the nursing role of care has traditionally been associated with feminine attributes, male nurses are viewed as misplaced and confront difficulties. One of these barriers is gender bias, which hinders males from practising obstetrics in some facilities. The underlying cause of this bias is mother's cultural and religious beliefs that males should not be allowed in maternity facilities. Male nursing students who are practising in maternity units encounter bias and rejection as a result of these misconceptions (Aynaci & Uyesi, 2021). In reality, perception from patient particularly female patients, do not favour male nurses as midwives. The vast majority of women refused to give birth or accept treatment from male nurses, and they voiced discomfort if a male nurse performed perineal care, abdominal inspection, or any post-partum care on them (Bwalya, 2015).

According to the World Health Organization, only 10% of student nurses worldwide are male, with rates varying by area and nation (WHO, 2020). In 2018, the percentage of male nurses in the United States remained consistent at 11%, and it has been climbing over the last 20 years (Demayo, 2018). Whereas, only 21,000 of China's 2.18 million registered nurses are male, accounting for less than 1% of the workforce, and

this is a source of worry for China in Asia (Realmanswork, 2012). The Health Ministry's statistics in 2018 show that only 2.6% (2,366) of 87,878 public sector nurses are male in Malaysia (Centre & Division, 2021). Saudi Arabia has the greatest percentage of male nurses working in the obstetric unit, at 32% (Aynaci, 2021).

In fact, a crucial aspect of nursing is creating a therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the patient. As a result, patients feel more at peace since they may choose the healthcare professional who will help them. The results of the study are important because they provide professionals a better understanding of the divisions and specialties in which male nurse's work (Abdel-fattah *et al.*, 2019). Every nation's health-care delivery system exists to meet patient needs by offering highest, cost-effective, safe, and efficient medical care. Studies show that patient satisfaction is a key sign of high-quality medical care. Studies have also revealed a strong correlation between nurse treatment and patients' satisfaction with the institution as a whole. Professional nursing care need to be viewed and administered through the patient's eyes. As a result, it is crucial to take the patient's viewpoint into account. This study aims to determine the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

In recent years, there has been an increase in research on the experiences of male student nurses (Stott, 2004). The most important academic barrier for male nursing student is that they are not completely recognised as nurses. It is claimed that male students are not given the same learning chances as professional health care personnel and are treated differently (Newham & Alderdice, 2017). The second concern stated by male nursing students is that they are given preference for jobs that require physical force.

They claim that when people need to perform physically demanding tasks such as transporting big objects or patients, they are the first to consider of them.

Based on studies were conducted shown that 13.2% of respondents had an overall positive opinion of male nurses, while 19.3% have a negative opinion and 67.5% have a neutral one (Sharma *et al.*, 2022). The focus is on how stereotypical behaviour toward male nurses impacts their job satisfaction and the nurse-patient relationship, which results in dissatisfaction with the treatment they provide.

Moreover, because most women object to students providing maternal healthcare services, gender inequality in maternity healthcare facilities presents problems for male students who are required to observe and perform deliveries as part of their learning objectives. This causes a training gap for male nursing students academically (Mohd *et al.*, 2015). Additionally, according to Mthombeni, (2015), students would pass the theory portion of obstetric training but fail the practical, delaying completion and increasing dropout. That why in this study, the researcher wants to explore mother's perceptions of the male nursing students during training in obstetrics ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

1. What is the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia?
2. Is there any association between selected socio-demographic factors (age, educational level and gender preference) and perception of mother towards male nursing student during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia?

## **1.4 Study Objectives**

### **1.4.1 General Objective**

To determine the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

1. To determine the level of perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.
2. To determine the association between selected socio-demographic factors (age, educational level and gender preference) and level of perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

## **1.5 Research Hypothesis**

### **Null hypothesis, H<sub>0</sub>:**

There is no significant association between selected demographic factors and the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward.

### **Alternative hypothesis, H<sub>A</sub>:**

There is a significant association between selected demographic factors and the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in Obstetric ward.

## 1.6 Conceptual and Operational Definitions

There operational terms used in this research proposal are shown below :

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Perception	Perception is the process by which organisms interpret and organize sensation to produce a meaningful experience of the world (Bwalya, 2015). In this study, the mother's perception towards male nursing student has been measured by using self-administered questionnaire consist of three subscale which is perception of mothers regarding their preferences of receiving care from male student nurse (5 items). Secondly, skills in assessing patients' needs (10 items). Lastly, male student nurse's communication (11 items).
Male Student Nurse	A student enrolled in a programme that leads to nursing certification; frequently used to refer to students enrolled in RN or practical nurse programmes (Medical Dictionary, 2012). In this study, it referred to Degree male nursing students (Year 3 and 4) and Diploma male nursing students (Year 2 and 3)
Clinical practices	Clinical practices are a key part of nursing students' education because they allow them to strengthen technical skills via interaction with patients and healthcare professionals, apply theoretical information in a real-world setting, and cultivate nursing attitudes (Levett-jones <i>et al.</i> , 2015).  In this study, it referred to Degree and diploma male nursing student that compulsory for completing clinical posting according to requirement MQA which is the posting in Obstetric ward must fulfil in 2 unit equivalent to 4 weeks posting (Malaysian Nursing Board, 2018).

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## **1.7 Significance of Study**

Nursing has traditionally been recognized as a feminist job due to women's caring and committed attitudes. Despite this, it admits more guys by opening its doors (Genedy *et al.*, 2020). The Malaysian Nursing Board's (MNB) need for clinical experience prior to registration influenced the establishment of the diploma and bachelor of nursing programmes (Malaysian Nursing Board, 2018). As a result, in both academic and clinical settings, strategies must be created to remove gender-based barriers and improve professional retention and progress. For it to be effective, it is essential to consider the mother's perspective. Students need to do well in their classes and gain knowledge via practical experience in order to have excellent applicable skills (Heidari & Norouzadeh, 2015). This study is crucial for nursing students to complete in order to prepare for their future careers and reach their learning objectives.

In addition to its importance for nursing program in USM the findings of this study can be utilised as a reference or for preliminary appraising other nursing schools or healthcare institutions. These discoveries have implications for nursing practise, administration, research, and education. The outcomes of this study will be used as a baseline for future, more in-depth investigations.

Furthermore, the outcomes of this study can be used as a guideline for clinical practise in the field of education. Secondly, this study might raise awareness regarding gender stereotyping and the problems that male nursing students face while working in the maternity ward. Finally, this study will prompt administrators to develop policies for clinical teaching and learning of nursing students at USM or other healthcare institutions.

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter is reviewing the current literature related to perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia by credited scholars and researchers. In this chapter, it provide information about perception of mothers towards male nursing student which gender bias, unwelcoming, stigma and rejecting of care and treatment provide by male nursing student. The recent articles and related issue were included in this chapter. Finally, this chapter also detailed the conceptual framework chosen for the study.

### **2.2 Perception and Nursing Practice**

Perception is a complex topic with numerous elements and dimensions. The neurons that carry out perception are explored in physiology (Privitera, 2022). Perception is also a topic that psychology explores thoroughly about the awareness and understanding of sensory input such as the mechanisms of touch, taste, smell, vision, and hearing. These are all stimuli that are given to people and are interpreted differently and uniquely by each one of them (Majid *et al.*, 2018).

Nursing is a job that aims to safeguard and enhance the health of the person, family, and community, regardless of gender. It also attempts to enhance and rehabilitate a person's health when they are unwell, as well as to improve their overall quality of life (Yilmaz, 2020). Male figures in labour and delivery wards, contrary to common belief, may be acceptable to maternity patients and female obstetrical professionals. According to Mari & Mitra, (2017), a study of members of the Association of Women's Health,

Obstetric, and Neonatal Nursing (AWHONN) found that the majority of respondents supported male nurses working in the speciality.

Gender bias is caused by preconceptions. According to Cushner *et al.* (2006), gender bias is "behaviour that emerges from an underlying perception in sex role norms". Gender bias is the desire to judge someone only on the basis of their gender. It manifests itself in attitudes and behaviours based on gender stereotypes rather than a person's individual abilities and experiences. According to Hill & Hill, (2005), gender bias is "unequal treatment in work prospects and expectations owing to opinions based on an employee's or group of employees' sex". Gender prejudice may be a solid legal defence under anti-discrimination legislation.

### **2.3 Mothers Perception towards Male Nursing Student**

There was previously a perception that women predominated the nursing profession. According to the World Health Organization, only 10% of nursing professionals globally are males, with regional and national differences. For example, 10.6% of nurses in the United Kingdom are men, compared to 10.9%, 1%, and 12.7% in Australia, China, and Hong Kong, respectively (WHO, 2020) whereas in Malaysia only 2.6% of male nurse (Centre & Division, 2021). For men who want to become nurses, the feminization of the nursing profession may be seen as a gender barrier. The historical gender of nursing and the sex of nurses were both mostly female. Gender and occupation have shifted in recent years. This difference began to shift when evidence concerning professions designated as "women's vocations" emerged (M. Ahmad & Alshraideh, 2007). In contrast to males entering female-dominated professions such as nursing, attitudes toward women entering

male dominated fields were generally positive. However, there is currently a lack of research on males who work in traditionally female-dominated professions.

Male nursing students are treated unequally in clinical settings while having the same desire to work in the field due to gender stereotypes. According to Barrett-landau *et al.* (2013), many male nurses are perceived as having "strength" to handle or transfer patients, or as security backup in the event of claimed violence. Others have expressed concerns about completing clinical training at maternity facilities, either because clinical teachers did not encourage them or because there were limitations on what they could accomplish and learn (Monique G Sedgwick, 2015). Other examples of gender bias include male nurses being assigned to observe rather than do hands-on tasks, being asked to leave a bedside even though the patient did not request it, and being barred from labour and delivery wards and neonatal units (Carnevale & Priode, 2018). Furthermore, despite the fact that several studies have revealed that male nurses prefer to be addressed and referred to simply as "nurses" in clinical settings, the adjective "male" is frequently glued because patients generally think that the males in the wards must be physicians (Devito, 2013). Indeed, patients have frequently asked male nursing students, but not females, whether they intend to become physicians after completing their nursing courses (Devito, 2013).

Male nurses may have a lot of chance to identify themselves as deserving of their profession since they are sometimes stereotyped as "He-Man", troublemaker, effeminate, or gay (Weaver *et al.*, 2013), the absence or lack of role models to aspire to, tend to perpetuate the perception that men are unsuitable to become nurses (Barton-gooden *et al.*, 2016) by society as a result of the feminine orientation connected with nursing (Haigh & Econ, 2015). Their practises are therefore crucial to their survival and continued practise in the profession (Zamanzadeh *et al.*, 2013).

## **2.4 Mothers Preference Care**

A study discovered that 69% of female patients preferred female nurses and just 3% chose male nurses when it came to obtaining treatment from male nurses (Kouta *et al.*, 2011). These patients also considered that women were more suited for the nursing profession than males because they could increase patient confidence more effectively (Bwalya, 2015). A significant difference in patient preferences was also discovered by Schnatz *et al.* (2005), with the majority of patients preferring female nurses because they felt more at ease and less self-conscious in the presence of a female nurse and lacking confidence in male nurses' abilities as well as embarrassment about receiving intimate care from male nurses.

According to Samuel, (2020), 17% of patients believed that male nurses could meet all of their requirements, compared to 65% of patients who felt that female nurses could which found that roughly half of the patients expressed objection to receiving care from male nurses. However, it was shown that 58.7% of them were open to receiving care from male nurses. This result was in line with (Buyuk, 2015) results in Turkey, where 60% of adult patients believed that nursing was a profession open to nurses of both sexes and that they might get care from either gender. Another study also found that 69% of the patients wanted male nurses to take care of them (Kutah, 2022). According to Duman, (2012), both men and women can become excellent nurses, and there is a clear trend toward more men working as nurses, which is supported by this study.

## **2.5 Perception Regarding Male Nurse Student in Assessment Skill**

Almost nine out of ten pregnant women (96.7%) said nursing was a career that only women could do (Duman, 2012). All of the mothers who took part responded that

they did not want to be cared for by male nurses during their pregnancies and births. These findings indicated that women's perceptions of male nurses remained unfavourable. Based on study conducted, it can be interpreted that women preferred receiving care from female nurses rather than male nurses in situations they regarded as private and secret, such as pregnancy and labour (Duman, 2012).

Mothers would be disturbed if male nurses performed certain examinations and care procedures, such as vaginal and abdominal examination, urethral catheter procedure, labour, hygiene/dressing, medical dressing, breast care, and breast feeding, during pregnancy and labour, and this would cause disruption in the relationship between the woman and the male nurse but the mothers will not be disturbed if male nurses performed non-invasive procedures including bloodletting, non-stress examinations, and blood pressure monitoring (Duman, 2012). But almost all of the women who took part preferred male doctors over female ones throughout their pregnancies and deliveries, and they did not want male nurses to take care of them (Duman, 2012).

## **2.6 Perception Regarding Male Nurse Student's Communication**

In terms of how male nurses communicate with patients. A study done by Inoue *et al.* (2006), clearly shown that patients, regardless of the nurse's gender, emphasised the importance of therapeutic interaction between nurse and patient. In this context, the current study's findings demonstrated that most of patients believe male nurses employ verbal and nonverbal communication skills while considering social restrictions, and that they feel happy with the nurses' communication. In addition, 85.8% of participants agreed that males might be just as excellent nurses as women, with communication skills being

one of them. However, this data contradicts which Buyuk, (2015) claim that the majority of patients were concerned about talking with a male nurse.

According to Samuel, (2020), 28% of obstetrics patients would feel uneasy being attended to by a male nurse, whereas Chur-hansen, (2002) found that 47.6% of patients would feel uneasy having a male nurse give them a bath, 52.9% believed that male nurses should treat male patients, and 62% said it would be challenging to engage in a male nurse. A study discovered that since 76.5% of patients believed male nurses would be effective, female patients would find it challenging to communicate their issues to male nurses (Buyuk, 2015). In addition, 69% of patients chose male nurses to provide their treatment. The majority of patients mentioned having trouble communicating with the male nurse and felt uneasy and uncomfortable (Duman, 2012).

## **2.7 Perception and Socio-Demographic Factors**

### **2.7.1 Age**

Mothers' perceptions of male nursing students and several socio-demographic characteristics were shown to be statistically significantly associated (Buyuk, 2015). A previous study claimed that there are statistically significant differences in patients' socio-demographic features and whether they prefer a male or female nurse (Budu *et al.*, 2019). According to Abdel-fattah et al. (2019), nearly one third of patients (29.7%) in their early twenties and below 30 years old believed that nursing was a profession for both men and women which is 73%.

Sometimes, the embarrassment might be due to the age of the female patients. Studies have suggested that male nursing students feel less embarrassed about taking care of older female patients (Chur-Hansen, 2002; Inoue et al., 2006). This article also



provided evidence that male nursing students feel more comfortable caring for older female patients than younger ones. Older patients were thought to be more open-minded about the idea of receiving care from male nurses and less suspicious about the motives of the male students in providing nursing care to them. The participants' fear of taking care of young females prevented a therapeutic relationship from developing between such patients and male nurses.

### **2.7.2 Educational Level**

The participants' educational level and their perceptions towards male nurse were substantially associated. A similar study revealed that patients' preferences for male nurses were influenced by their level of education (Budu *et al.*, 2019). This might be due to how education influences people's actions and perceptions (Sharma *et al.*, 2022).

A research had discovered that although high school graduates preferred the statement "Men can also be nurses," illiterate and secondary school patients chose the statement "Nursing is a job for women" more than other patients (Abdel-fattah *et al.*, 2019). According research by Barton-gooden *et al.* (2016) women with lower levels of education were less likely to choose male nurses, whereas the patients' perceptions of male nurses were more positive and they were accepted by patients more when their education level increased.

### **2.7.3 Gender Preference**

The field of nursing generally remains female-dominated in many countries (Buthelezi *et al.*, 2015). The number of males entering the nursing profession has increased overall, as the tide certainly moves in favour of gender equality in all professions. The Health Ministry's statistics in 2018 show that only 2.6% (2,366) of 87,878 public sector nurses are male in Malaysia (Centre & Division, 2021). It is not

surprising that more males are choosing to work in nursing which this demonstrates that they are open to working in a range of professions (Mari & Mitra, 2017). Gender diversity in nursing is expected to improve decision-making (Abdel-fattah et al., 2019).

Maternity care has remained tough for male nurses due to preconceptions and gender biases (Meadus & Twomey, 2011). Male nurses have claimed to have encountered challenges during their education and practise, affecting their enthusiasm in the occupation. Male nurses have been chastised by both professionals and the general public for being unsuited for the job. Mothers who had a negative opinion of male nurses were more likely to experience negative perception of the care they received. This demonstrates a difference between what patients expect and what they really experience (Johansson *et al.*, 2002). In this type of scenario, the nurse-patient relationship may degrade, which would be harmful to patient care (Inoue *et al.*, 2006).

Because males are often viewed as being unsuited for the job of caretaker, research has associated male nurses with stress-related throughout their careers. As they understand maternal-newborn nursing profession only for women, male students register in these courses, which fills them with anxiety, worry, and apprehension about the future. Despite the difficulties they encounter, male nurses are crucial to the care of pregnant women and new parents.

According to Alshammari et al., (2023), cultural belief of gender roles, male nurses' attitudes, and difficulty interacting with female patients were the main difficulties faced by male nursing students during clinical practise in a delivery room. In addition, male student felt disappoint to not being allowed enter the delivery room, perform any procedures on female patients, participate in the treatment care with other female nurses,

and being rejected by patients and family members. As a result, many feared it would be difficult to find work after graduation, in delivery rooms (Alshammari et al., 2023).

## **2.8 Conceptual Framework of the Study**

The Health Belief Model (HBM) is an article that connects concepts, actual data, and useful theories to improve and standardise understanding about linked issues. The study's identification and presentation using a figure are very crucial. It develops large knowledge frameworks that function as the foundation for the importance of research topics and the framing of issues (Plakhotnik, 2009). In this study, the Health Belief Model (HBM) was applied to analyse the health behaviours of obstetric patients who had been hospitalised depending on how they thought about the care provided by male nursing students.

In the 1950s, American public health experts began constructing psychological models to increase the success of health-education programs. Long-standing relationships have been identified between demographic characteristics such as socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, and age and preventative health-related behaviour patterns such as those that predict inequalities in morbidity and mortality as well as in the use of healthcare services (Abraham & Sheeran, 2016). It is also widely used in health promotion and education (Glanz *et al.*, 2008). This concept has evolved through time and is now utilised to explain health-related behaviours. HBM consists of six components which are perceived severity, perceived susceptibility, perceived benefits and perceived barriers (Abraham & Sheeran, 2016).

- Perceived susceptibility refers to the likelihood that a person will get sick.

- Perceived severity refers to how serious a health condition is perceived by the person.
- Perceived benefit refers to the belief in the success of a healthy behaviour.
- Perceived barriers refers to the belief in the difficulty of a healthy behaviour.
- Cue of action refers to the willingness to act in response to perceived susceptibility and benefit.
- Self-efficacy refers to a person's capacity to motivate themselves.

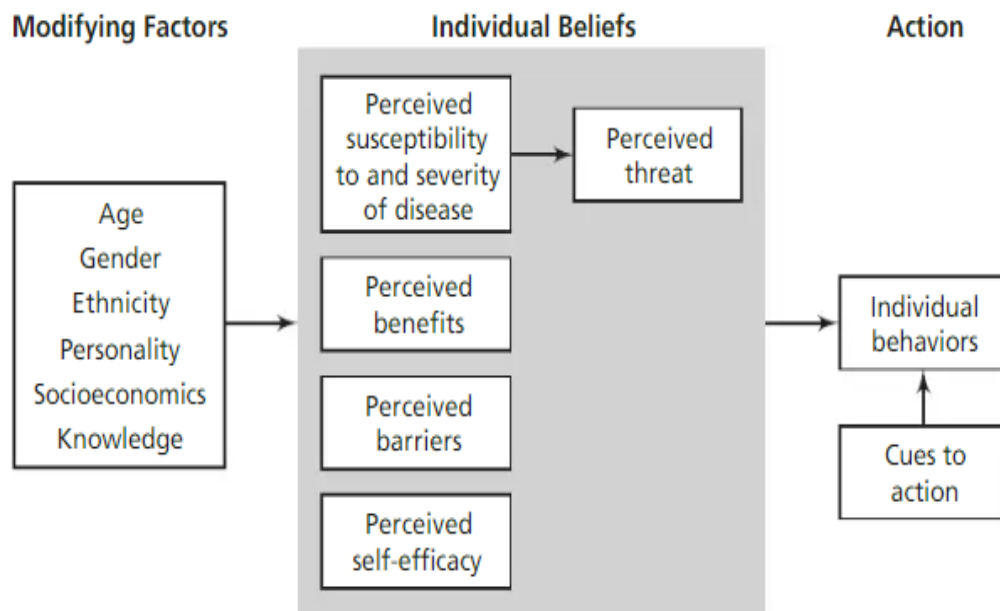


Figure 2.1: Health Belief Model adapted from (Glanz et al., 2008)

HBM explained the perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice to explore their beliefs through mother's point of view about the gender preferences, acceptance, clinical practice environment and care provided by male nursing student. Figure 2.2 shows the adopted theory of HBM in this study.

From this study, a person's severity to change their perception in order to avoid a consequence is inversely associated to how serious they perceive the consequences will

be. For example, mothers refuse to male nursing students caring for them because they believe males cannot be nurses (Bujang *et al.*, 2020). As a result, male nursing students' susceptibility to rejection messages increased with practical practise. The perceived severity may increase dramatically (Bremser *et al.*, 2021).

The next component is perceived susceptibility, which individuals will not change unless they think they are at threat, for example, in an emergency situation that requires immediate treatment either from a male nurse or a male doctor. If not treated immediately will endanger the patient's own life. From this statement it shows that perception can change but through complication (Kruk *et al.*, 2018).

When people perceive benefits, it can be challenging to convince them to change their beliefs even though there is no benefit to them personally (Orji *et al.*, 2012). People will not part with what they appreciate until they are given something in return. For instance, mothers could decline to get care from a male nursing student if they don't think it would benefit them individually (Bolsoy *et al.*, 2019).

One of the main reasons individuals don't change their perception is because they believe it would be difficult (Orji *et al.*, 2012). Changing individual's perception might take time and effort. The amount of effort required, discomfort, and social implications are all often considered barriers. Furthermore, perceived perception barriers have been found to be the single most effective indicator of whether people are likely to engage in perception (Jones *et al.*, 2015).

Cues to action are external circumstances that encourage people to act (Glanz *et al.*, 2008). They might range from a great male role model in the nursing profession to a good nurse-patient therapy exhibited in one organisation and a family member who is in

the nursing field (Chan *et al.*, 2014). A cue to action is anything that helps someone shift from desiring to change to actually changing.

A male nursing student's self-efficacy is measured according to their belief that they can change how their mothers perceive them (Genedy *et al.*, 2020). Finding ways to increase individual own self-efficacy can positively influence behaviour. The likelihood that a male nursing student won't fail is almost assured. Self-efficacy is one of the most important factors in a person's capacity to effectively accept masculinity as a nurse (Yip & Yip, 2021).

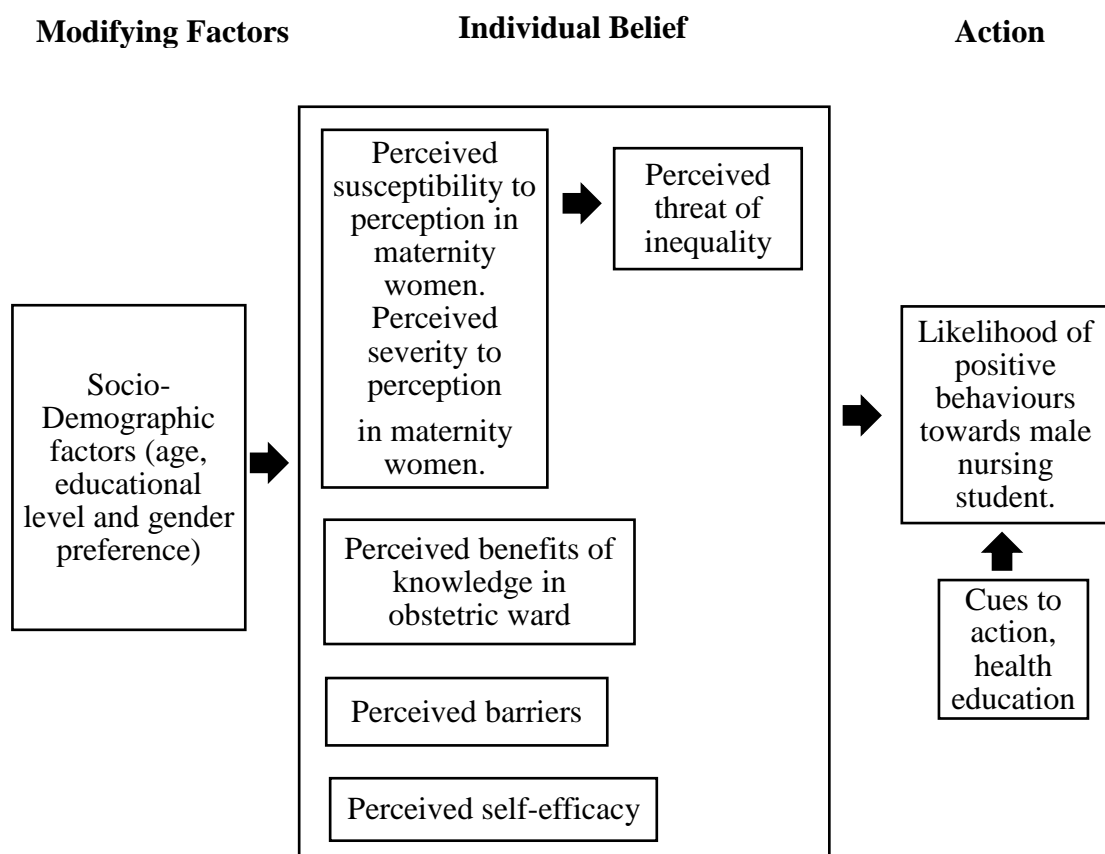


Figure 2.2: The Adopted Theory of Health Belief Model (HBM)

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter explains how the study was carried out including the methodology and methods that has been used. Within this chapter, a flow chart of the research was presented. The actual process of carrying out the analysis, such as research design, population and study setting, sample criteria for inclusion and exclusion and sample collection, was defined along with the methodologies and approaches use. Ethical considerations and the method that has been used in the study were also detailed.

### **3.2 Research Design**

In this study, the research design selected was a cross-sectional study using a questionnaire to assess the level of perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. The advantages of cross-sectional study include not costly to perform, does not required a lot of time and can be carried out at a one-time point over a short period.

### **3.3 Research Location**

The study was conducted at the Obstetric wards (2 Akik, 2 Topaz, 2 Baiduri and 1 Berlian), Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM) situated in Kubang Kerian. This hospital is a teaching hospital with 830 bed.

### **3.4 Research Duration**

For this study, the duration is about one year which is 3-6 months for data collection in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

### 3.5 Research Population

The sample population was mothers who is admitted and receiving care during staying in any obstetric ward in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. Table 3.1 shown the list of obstetric wards in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

*Table 3.1: List of Obstetric Wards in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia*

<b>Obstetric wards</b>
1 Berlian
2 Akik
2 Baiduri
2 Topaz

### 3.6 Subject Criteria

In order to achieve the research's objective, several criteria are set to ensure the subject's data are suitable for the research purposes and hence able to reach the targeted goals at the end of the study.

*Table 3.2: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria of Study*

<b>Inclusion Criteria</b>	<b>Exclusion Criteria</b>
Antenatal and postnatal women	Antenatal and postpartum women with complication.
Able to understand, read and write in English or Bahasa Malaysia	Not willing to participate.
Malaysia citizen	



### 3.7 Sampling Plan

#### 3.7.1 Sampling Size Estimation

The sample size is calculated for both objectives using Sample Size Calculator (web) by (Arifin, 2022). The reasonable sample size is taken as the study sample size.

**Objective 1:** To determine level of perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

In this sample, single proportion formula will be used to calculate the sample size based on the first objectives.

$$N = \left[ \frac{z}{\Delta} \right]^2 p (1 - p)$$

Where,

n = Sample size

p = Anticipated population proportion

z = Value of standard normal distribution = 1.96

$\Delta$  = Precision = 0.05

The population proportion is taken based on previous study conducted by (Sharma *et al.*, 2022) reveals that 13.2% of the subjects had positive perception regarding male nurse care.

The minimal sample size is 124, and after considering a 10% drop out, the sample size calculated is 138. Hence, the sample size needed for the first objective in this study is 138 mothers who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

$$n(\text{with } 10\% \text{ dropout}) = 138$$

1 proportion - Estimation	
Proportion (p):	<input type="text" value="0.132"/>
Precision ( $\pm$ proportion):	<input type="text" value="0.05"/>
Confidence level $100(1 - \alpha)$ :	<input type="text" value="90"/> %
Expected dropout rate:	<input type="text" value="10"/> %
<input type="button" value="Calculate"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	
Sample size, n =	<input type="text" value="124"/>
Sample size (with 10% dropout), $n_{drop}$ =	<input type="text" value="138"/>

Figure 3.1: Sample Size Calculation using Sample Size Calculator (web)

**Figure 3.1:** sample size calculation using Sample Size Calculator (web)

**Objective 2:** To determine the association between selected socio-demographic factors (age, educational level and gender preference) and level of perception of mothers towards male nursing students during clinical practice in obstetric ward, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

In this sample, two proportion formula will be used to calculate the sample size based on the second objectives.

$$n = \frac{p_1(1 - p_1) + p_2(1 - p_2)(z\alpha + z\beta)^2}{(p_1 - p_2)^2}$$

Where,

$n$  = Required sample size

$z\alpha$  = Value of the standard normal distribution curve cutting off probability Alpha ( $\alpha$ )

in one tail for one-sided alternative or  $\frac{\alpha}{2}$  in each tail for a two-sided alternative

( $z0.05=1.96$ )

$z\beta$  = Power of study, 80% ( $z\beta = 0.84$ )

$p$  = Estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population

$p_1$  = Negative perception

$p_2$  = Positive perception

Table 3.3: Sample Size of Selected Socio-Demographic Factors

<b>Categorical variable</b>	<b>References</b>	<b><math>p_1</math></b>	<b><math>p_2</math></b>	<b>Minimal sample size (n)</b>	<b>Sample size (with 10% dropout), <math>n_{drop}</math></b>
<b>Age</b>	(Abdel-fattah et al., 2019)	0.494	0.730	66	74
<b>Education Level</b>	(Sharma <i>et al.</i> , 2022)	0.378	0.022	19	22
<b>Gender Preference</b>	(Subba et al., 2021)	0.581	0.419	149	166

Based on calculations from each objectives, the greatest sample size was selected in this study to ensure all of the objectives can be achieved which is 138 mothers who full-filled the inclusive criteria for research and admitted in obstetric ward in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia.

### 3.7.2 Sample Method

This study will use convenience sampling method to recruit subjects for this study. Convenience sampling involves using respondents who are convenience to the researcher. The researcher only approaches the potential participant which meet the inclusion criteria who attend to Obstetrics ward in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. A set of questionnaires will be passed to the participant who are voluntary participate in this study.