**Research Proposal**

Research title: **Knowledge on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act 2016 (Act 775) among traditional and complementary medicine practitioners who attended the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act (T&CM Act) briefing.**

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**Background**

Since last century, traditional medicine has been playing a major role in providing healthcare to mankind. Traditional and complementary medicine is getting more popular in our community for the purpose of healing diseases and healthcare. Traditional and complementary medicine is used in the maintenance of health and in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness. Traditional and complementary medicine will become an important component in our healthcare system that will improve the level of health and quality of life of Malaysians in concern with modern medicine. Therefore, the Malaysian government is striving to develop this field further since our country has an abundance of natural resources that could be developed into health products.

T&CM Act 2016 (Act 775) is an Act to provide for the establishment of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Council to regulate the traditional and complementary medicine services in Malaysia and to provide for matters connected therewith. The Act has already come into operation on August 2016 and currently it is in the phase 2 since March 2021. In this Act, “practice of traditional and complementary medicine” means a form of health-related practice design to prevent, treat or manage ailment or illness or preserve the mental and physical well-being of an individual and includes such practices as traditional Malay medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, traditional Indian medicine, Islamic medical practice, homeopathy, and complementary therapies but excludes medical and dental practices used by a medical or dental practitioner respectively .

Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act 2016 (T&CM Act 2016) or Act 775 briefing is the briefing conducted since 2017 by physical attendance of T&CM practitioners which organized by the Operations and Intelligence Unit under the Inspectorate and Enforcement Section and by the branch of T&CM in every zone covering all the state in Malaysia respectively. In addition, this Act 775 briefing also conducted physically when there is a request from non-governmental organization (NGO).

Since July 2020, during the pandemic Covid-19 and movement control order, T&CM Act 2016 briefing was conducted via online through Zoom application till to-date. It is also called as *Taklimat Akta* which will be scheduled 2 sessions per month or more session through a request from an NGO. Till 30th June 2022, a total number of 19,337 T&CM practitioners have been attended this Act 775 briefing by filling up the feedback form with 97.1% of them passed the questionnaires. As of June 2022, a total number of 225 T&CM Act 2016 briefing was conducted. T&CM practitioner who attended this *Taklimat Akta* will be evaluated from their knowledge about the Act 775.

This briefing will be focused to traditional and complementary medicine practitioner who not yet attended the *Taklimat Akta* previously and it’s the prerequisite entry for T&CM practitioner registration under the T&CM Council. This is to provide guidelines to T&CM practitioners, so that they are always in compliance with professional standards in carrying out their responsibilities. T&CM practitioners should always maintain good behaviour and integrity in carrying out their duties so as not to impair their reputation as a practitioner. They must be competent and constantly strive to enhance their knowledge and skills. At the end of each session, they will be a feedback form and a questionnaire form which must be answered by each attendee before they granted to be completed the briefing and entitled for next step in register as T&CM practitioner.

This research study is conducted to analyzed the impact of the T&CM Act 2016 briefing among the T&CM practitioner in providing their services according to the guidelines and standard operating procedure while carrying out their services. In addition, the study outcomes from this research will be used to analyzed any weakest point of the briefing. Furthermore, it also used to discover which parts of the briefing that have less understanding to T&CM practitioner which need to be improved in future.

**Objectives**

General objective:

• To determine the knowledge on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act 2016 (Act 775) among traditional and complementary medicine practitioners who attended the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act (T&CM Act) briefing.

Secondary objectives:

• To study social demography T&CM practitioner in Malaysia who attended the *Taklimat Akta.*

• To determine the satisfaction of the T&CM Act briefing among the T&CM practitioner in Malaysia.

• To identify areas of improvement in the T&CM briefing via the feedback forms and questionnaires.

**Methods**

• Study design: Retrospective study

• Study population:

(i) T&CM practitioners who attended the T&CM briefing or *Taklimat Akta* via zoom meeting or physical respectively.

(ii) All T&CM practitioners that submitted their feedback forms and questionnaires via Google form after attended the T&CM briefing from 1st June 2021 till 30th June 2022 were included.

• Inclusion criteria:

(i) Malaysian T&CM practitioners aged 18 years and above.

(ii) T&CM practitioners who practising the recognize practice areas by

the Act 775.

• Exclusion criteria:

(i) Non Malaysian T&CM practitioners.

(ii) Non recognized practice areas by the Act 775.

(iii) Excludes medical and dental practices used by a medical or dental practitioner respectively

• Methods of data collection: Analysis of the data are from the T&CM 2016 Briefing feedback form as well as practitioner obligations and questionnaire on the T&CM Medicine Act 2016.

• Data analysis: descriptive statistical analysis.