

PARAMETER ESTIMATION FOR OPTIMISED NUMBER OF BEDS IN  
HOSPITAL PLANNING DESIGN

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my father, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake. It is also dedicated to my mother, who taught me that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Designing hospital buildings are a complex process which has to cater for different needs and requirements. The healthcare industry is expanding rapidly as the population increase in both public and private sector. Other than population, the other variables which can affect the number of hospital beds requirement are (1) admission rate, (2) average length of stay and (3) bed occupancy rate. Various models and methods for determining the number of hospital beds were developed to cater for regional and hospital level requirements. The factors for planning hospital capacity are based on the population of the region, the frequency of admission, occupancy of bed as well as length of stay. This thesis proposes a new predictive formula to determine the number of hospital beds by replacing the variable population of region and frequency of admission, with number of outpatients within the region and conversion rate of outpatient to inpatient respectively. Further discussion has been focused on the initial stage of hospital planning which incorporate nine design parameters in five design processes and the relationship between these parameters in each design processes as to determine the correct bed capacity. Data was analysed using Microsoft Excel – Data Analysis method of Regression Analysis during the research. This method was used to establish and predict the dependent variable (number of beds) using one or more independent variables. It was also predict the design bed capacity with a given suitable data's that have been extracted from management and operation inputs. Outputs from regression analysis successfully produced the trend in graphical form that predict the bed capacity. Using 8 private hospitals data from KPJ Hospitals and Health Facts from Ministry of Health Malaysia, results show a correlation between number of bed (dependent parameter) and other independent parameters which are, No. of Clinics, No. of Outpatients, No. of Inpatients, Bed Occupancy Rate and Length of Stay. Based on these 5 independent variables, the formula managed to predict the optimum number of beds required at hospital levels. Therefore, these parameters can be used to calculate the gap between formulated number of beds and the available bed to determine the present/future bed requirement.

## ABSTRAK

Mereka bentuk bangunan hospital adalah proses kompleks yang perlu memenuhi pelbagai keperluan dan kehendak.. Industri Kesihatan di dalam sektor awam atau swasta akan mulai berkembang pesat apabila populasi penduduk dalam sesuatu kawasan meningkat. Selain daripada populasi penduduk, faktor lain yang mempengaruhi bilangan keperluan katil hospital ialah (1) kadar kemasukan pesakit, (2) purata hari penginapan pesakit dan (3) kadar penggunaan katil hospital. Pelbagai model dan kaedah untuk menentukan bilangan katil hospital telah dibangunkan untuk memenuhi keperluan peringkat wilayah dan hospital. Faktor perancangan kapasiti katil hospital adalah berdasarkan populasi kawasan, kekerapan kadar kemasukan pesakit, kadar penggunaan katil serta tempoh hari penginapan pesakit. Tesis ini mencadangkan formula ramalan baharu untuk menentukan bilangan katil hospital dengan menggantikan pembolehubah populasi kawasan dan frekuensi kemasukan pesakit, dengan bilangan pesakit luar dan kadar penukaran pesakit luar kepada pesakit dalam.. Perbincangan lanjut telah ditumpukan pada peringkat awal perancangan hospital yang menggabungkan dengan sembilan parameter reka bentuk bersama lima proses reka bentuk dan menerangkan hubungan parameter dengan setiap proses reka bentuk tersebut bagi menentukan kapasiti katil. Data dianalisis menggunakan Microsoft Excel – kaedah Data Analisis Regresi semasa penyelidikan. Kaedah ini digunakan untuk mewujudkan dan meramal pembolehubah bersandar (bilangan katil) dengan satu atau lebih pembolehubah tidak bersandar, Ia juga meramalkan kapasiti katil berdasarkan data yang diekstrak daripada perolehan Bahagian Pengurusan dan Operasi hospital. Hasil daripada Data Analisis Regresi ini berjaya menghasilkan trend di dalam bentuk graf bagi meramalkan kapasiti katil. Menggunakan data 8 hospital swasta daripada Hospital KPJ dan laporan *Health Facts* terbitan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, keputusan menunjukkan korelasi antara bilangan katil (pembolehubah bersandar) dan pembolehubah tidak bersandar yang lain. Berdasarkan 5 pembolehubah tidak bersandar ini, formula berjaya meramalkan bilangan optimum katil yang diperlukan di peringkat hospital. Oleh itu, parameter ini boleh digunakan untuk mengira jurang antara bilangan katil yang dirumuskan dan katil yang tersedia untuk menentukan keperluan katil masa kini atau masa hadapan.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABM	-	Activity Based Management
ALOS	-	Average Length of Stay
AR	-	Admission Rate
BMSH	-	Bukit Mertajam Specialist Hospital
BSC	-	Balanced Scorecard
BOMPS	-	Bed Occupancy Modelling and Planning Systems
CBN	-	Current Bed Numbers
CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer
CICU	-	Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
CMCO	-	Conditional Movement Control Order
CMI	-	Case Mix Indexed
CON	-	Certificate of Need
CPRC	-	Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre
CSSD	-	Central Sterile Services Department
DES	-	Discrete Event Simulation
DID	-	Diagnostics and Imaging Department
DP	-	Disease Prevalence
DOW	-	Day of Warded
EBD	-	Evidence Based Hospital Design
ED	-	Emergency Department
F	-	Frequency of use
FL	-	Funding Level
GDP	-	Gross Development Profit
HR	-	Hospitalization Rates
HUKM	-	Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malayisa
HUSM	-	Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia
HVAC	-	Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
IDPMS	-	Integrated Dynamic Performance Measurement System
ICU	-	Intensive Care Unit
JSH	-	Johor Specialist Hospital

KPJ	-	Kumpulan Perubatan Johor
LEED	-	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LOS	-	Length of Stay
MCO	-	Movement Control Order
MOH	-	Ministry of Health
NICU	-	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
ORU	-	Out-of-region use (inter-regional flows)
OT	-	Operating Theatre
P	-	Population
PPE	-	Personal Protective Equipment
PT	-	Patient Transfer to other providers
QFD	-	Quality Function Deployment
RPR	-	Region of patient residence (sub-regional flows)
SMI	-	Special Medical Institution
TA	-	Technology Advances
UTM	-	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
WT		Waiting time

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Designing hospital buildings is a complex process as to cater for different needs and requirements in clinical circulation, safety, environment and technological aspects which are numerous and time consuming. Many literatures related to hospital design covers the requirement of floor area, movement of patient and staff, logistics, departmental connectivity such as outpatient department, emergency department, diagnostic department, operation theatre, radiology division, pathology department and servicing/logistic departments such as central sterile and supply departments (CSSD), laundry, housekeeping, food and dietary department, clinical waste management and administrative department.

The studies will also analyze the issues pertaining to strategies for growth and expansion program which is in dire need of hospital beds in Malaysia healthcare facilities.

In general Malaysia government spent 3.76% of its GDP on health in 2018, which is about lower compared to other East Asia countries (World Health Organization Global Health Expenditure, n.d.). Malaysia expenditure in healthcare has risen steadily over the past decade with mean annual growth above 4%. Malaysia is in the mid-range among East Asia countries which in line with the predicted level given its per capita income as in Figure 1.1. The following Figure 1.1 below shows per capita income in selected East Asian economies between year 2000-2018

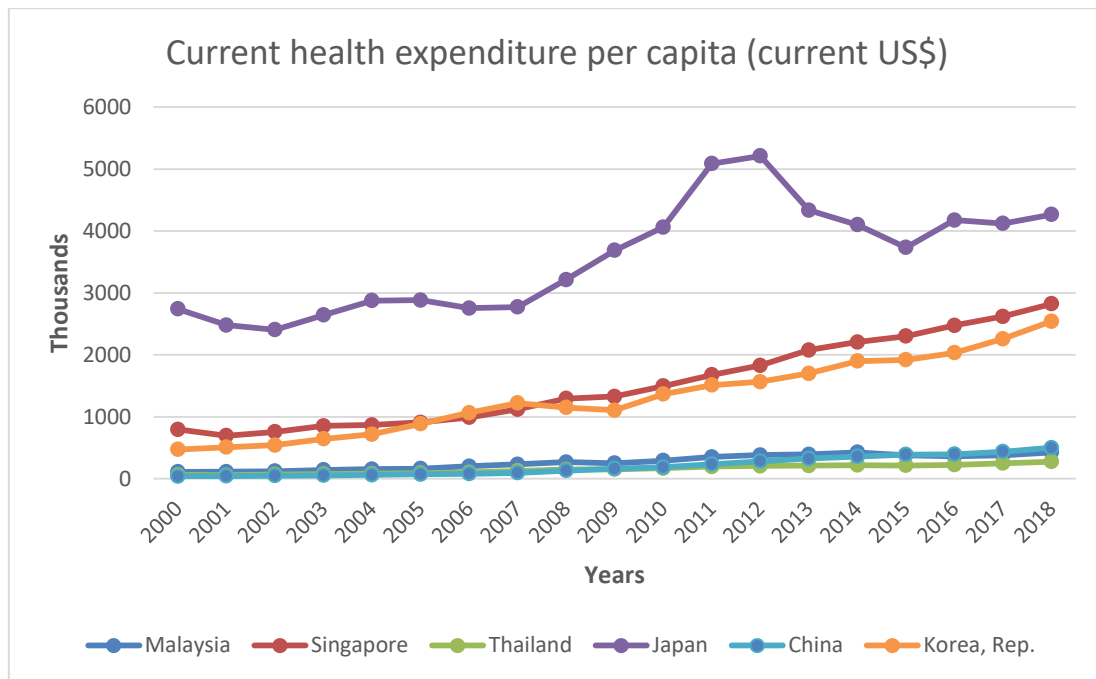


Figure 1.1 Per capita income in selected East Asian economies between year 2000-2018 (World Health Organization Global Health Expenditure, n.d.)

Malaysian healthcare system has been structured by the present of a public-sector hospital. All Malaysian are entitled for almost free treatment from all government hospitals. Since 2000, Malaysia general economic has gone through much success and prosperity, the number of private hospital has increased substantially. One of the reasons for this could be due to Malaysians overall scepticisms on government hospital which are publicly funded hospitals are not providing quality healthcare services that contributed to their preferences to private hospitals. Healthcare and education have been the largest components of Malaysia’s budgetary expenditure. Consequently, the government has attempted to shift the burden of healthcare to private sector, thereby decreasing its expenditure.

With the improvement of Malaysia economy, the publics’ expectation of health and medical services has changed for the better (Bemmel, 1999). Consequently, the government’s has been modernizing all government hospitals and clinics to ensure that they offer quality services. The government has also attempted to attract foreigners to seek treatment through the provision of quality services through Health Tourism. For this purpose, the Health Ministry and local providers of medical care have jointly organized an accreditation program by an independent



body, The Malaysian Society for Quality in Health (MSQH). The accreditation program emphasizes evaluation of the quality of services, education, and training against internationally accepted professional standards.

By March 2022, 47% of Ministry of Health hospitals were being accredited (63 out of 135) and 30% of private hospitals (60 out of 202) were accredited. Among 26 KPJ group of hospitals, 18 number of the hospital has been accredited by MSQH. A benchmarking study conducted by Arthur Andersen and Associated reported that local private hospitals needed to be more efficient to service the highly competitive industry (Ferri, C A; Klein, S R;, 2000). This study suggested the use of best practices as a short-term solution. As a long-term remedy, the study proposed the development and implication of an information system that can support efficient management decisions on a continuous basis.

About 70% of healthcare services are still being provided by the public sector, which focus on primary, secondary and tertiary levels (Blyth, A.; Worthington, J, 2001). The rapidly growth of private hospital in Malaysia, has offers an alternative healthcare service which is financed strictly on a non-subsidized, fee-for-services basis. As of year 2005 data, in the public sector, Malaysia Healthcare System consists of the following categories. They are as listed in table below.

Table 1.1 Malaysia Healthcare System hospital providers

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Type of Hospital</b>
Ministry of Health	Government Hospital
Ministry of Education	Teaching Hospitals
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Hospital for the Aborigines
Ministry of Defence	Military Hospital
Ministry of Unity and Social Welfare	Nursing Homes
Local Authorities	Big Cities

Besides the above list, in general, there are three types of public hospitals, namely;

- i. General Hospitals
- ii. District Hospitals
- iii. Special Medical Institutions (SMIs)

Malaysia has sixteen state capitals and each of them are being serve by a general hospital with an average number of beds of 600 to 700 beds. Each of this general hospital provide full range of healthcare services. In each of this state, at their district level they are being serve by a smaller hospital with the bed capacity of between 250 to 400 beds each, providing basic diagnostic and curative services. As for Special Medical Institutions (SMIs), this are hospital that provide treatment to specific diseases such as Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) which provide cardiac treatment, National Cancer Centre which provide cancer treatment and other SMIs.

There also network of health clinic which provide primary healthcare to the population and a comprehensive referral system to the district hospital and Special Medical Institution which are in place at district level and state capital centre. The private hospital account for almost 22% of Malaysia hospital bed and employed more than 50% of nation's doctor. Table below indicates the spread and demographics of public and private hospitals in Malaysia and it expected growth. As can be observed the pattern here is towards increasing hospital infrastructure and bed space.

Table 1.2 Key Health Service Delivery Supply-Side Indicators, 2015–2020

Year	Public		Private		Total		Hospital per 100,000 population	Hospital Beds per 1,000 population	Population
	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds	Hospitals	Beds			
2015	134	36,447	183	12,963	317	49,410	1.02	1.58	31,186,100
2016	135	41,995	187	13,957	322	55,952	1.02	1.77	31,660,700
2017	135	37,470	200	14,799	335	52,269	1.05	1.63	32,022,600
2018	135	37,609	210	15,957	345	53,566	1.07	1.65	32,382,300
2019	135	38,131	208	16,469	343	54,600	1.05	1.68	32,581,400
2020	135	38,543	202	17,155	337	55,698	1.03	1.71	32,657,300

(Atun, Berman, Hsiao, Myers, & Wei, March 2016)

Source: Health Facts, MOH; Malaysia Health System Review 2016-2021, WHO; NHEWS.

Table 1.3 Secondary care health facilities, 2020

Secondary care health facilities	No.	Beds	% total beds
MOH Hospitals	135	38,543	57.99
MOH special medical institutions	11	5,574	8.39
Non-MOH government hospitals	10	4,288	6.45
Private hospitals	202	17,155	25.81
Private maternity homes	17	48	0.07
Private nursing homes	21	821	1.24
Private hospice	3	39	0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>66,468</b>	<b>100</b>

(Jaafar, et al., 2013)

Source: Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2021c

Based on Health Facts 2020, out of 32 million of population there were 16.6 million of outpatient and 2.3 million inpatient being treated by for government hospital. By using the ratio of 2.5:1000 population, the bed required at that time are 81,643 of hospitals beds. This show that Malaysia government hospitals are shortage of beds by 43,100 with ratio of 2.5:1000 population.

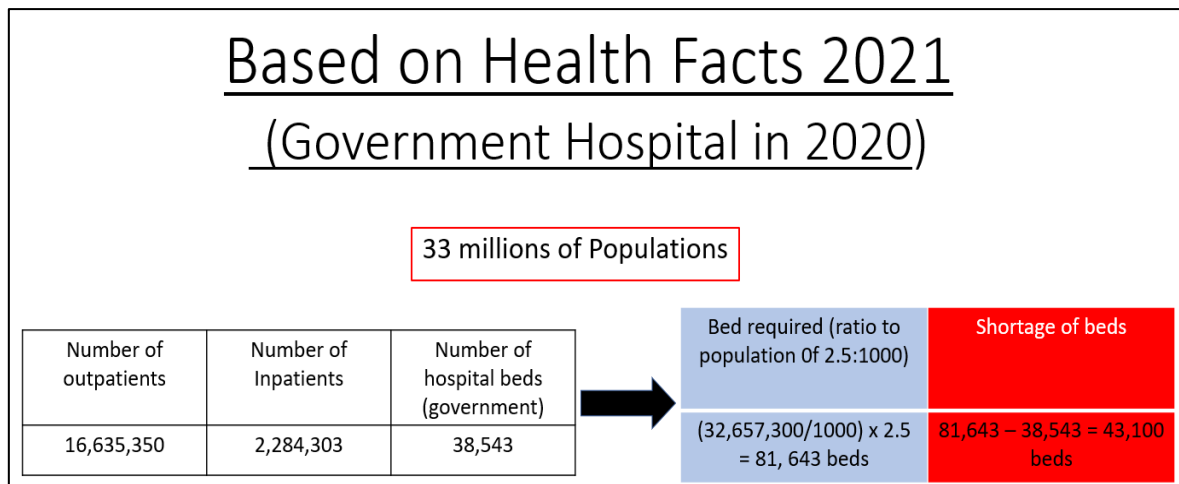


Figure 1.2 Ratio of Bed to Population

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Number of hospital beds are important part and most crucial issue due to increasing of population and the growing demand for expansion for Malaysia's government and private hospitals. In 2020 with population of 32 million, Malaysia treated 3,200,597 inpatients using 55,698 beds (Health Facts 2021, November 2021). Out of 71% were being treated by government hospital and only 29% of treated by private hospital. With a targeted bed to population ratio of 2.5:1000, Malaysia shows shortage of 25,945 hospital beds as indicated in Figure 1.2.

Most of hospitals in Malaysia were built since 1960s and to date the hospital buildings in all region of Malaysia need to be upgraded. Based on Health Facts 2021 Ministry of Health there were 135 numbers for government hospitals contribute 38,543 beds (285 beds per hospitals) while 202 numbers of private hospitals produced 17,155 beds (85 beds per hospitals). Hence, the exercise to increase the number of beds to reduce the shortage of beds need to be undertaken both by the public and private sector is of enormous important. Respectively, the ability to decide on the number of beds to be constructed by building new hospitals or to upgrade the capacity of current hospitals is equally important.

Unlike normal office building or commercial building, requirements for hospital buildings are very strict in term of the mechanical and electrical requirement so does clinical work flows (Griffin, 2005). Issues in upgrading of wards and other departments required the same approach before a master plan of upgrading work can be formalized and approved.

Determining the number of beds can be a complex exercise due too many factors and parameters that can be associated with it such as length of stay, number of outpatients and inpatients, population and etc. Healthcare industry usually deals with emergency and urgent situation by operating 24 hours per day for 365 days per year. The rate of change in spending per enrollee for both public and private health continues to raise, private health spending per enrollee increased more than public health. In Malaysia, numbers of hospital beds are often decided by business and financial decision, rather than meeting the need of patients. Decisions are made by hospital board of director and management at different level in healthcare systems.

From Chapter 2 Literature review (Kuntz, Scholtes, & Vera, 2007) stated that the parameters in planning hospital bed capacity were based on the population, frequency of admission, occupancy of bed as well as length of stay. There were several models and methods mentioned in several literatures on determining bed capacity such as formula method. Yet, there are not a single models and methods that can carry this task exceptionally well. (Mackay & Lee, 2005) in his journal mentioned that, a complex model can result in an over-fitting bed capacity, whereas simple predictive methods or model can give a better in determine the number of beds for present or future hospitals in Malaysia.

### **1.3 Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this research was to study the best approach of predictive formula method as decision making tools for capital investment in hospital Building Expansion Program by considering the various parameters which affect the design requirement to produce the required number of hospital beds. The following are the objective of this thesis:

- (a) To identify an optimum design system which will be able to project the present and future needs of the hospital capacity.
- (b) To develop a measuring tool to project the future capacity needs of the existing/new hospital.
- (c) To provide a decision-making tool for any upgrading, refurbishment and rebuilding of hospital facilities using gap analysis method on the deficiency in the hospital bed capacity.

Objective of this research work is to develop a systematically approach in upgrading the existing hospitals bed capacity while still meet the clinical and technical hospital facilities requirement. It is not the goal of this research to resolve the current massive convoluted problem faced by existing hospital building but would suffice to create and develop a systematically approach in solving this problem.

### **1.4 Scope of study**

Scope of this study include the following items:

- i. The study will be conducted on three (3) categories of hospital namely, Mature Hospitals, New Hospitals and Relocated Hospitals from eight (8) KPJ Healthcare Berhad hospitals.

- ii. The parameters captured on the hospitals include;
  - a. Type of services.
  - b. Treatment time.
  - c. Conversion rate for Outpatient to Inpatient.
  - d. Length of Stay (LOS)
  - e. Bed Occupancy Rate (BOR)
  - f. No. of Hospital Beds

Extracted from 5 years of data (2014-2018). However, data from 2019 to 2021 were not considered because of the pandemic situation which does not reflect the true operational scenario.

- iii. Using regression analysis to predict the formula and relationship of the 6 parameters from the data of eight (8) hospitals that were collected. The parameters for government hospitals are being collected from (Health Facts 2015-2020, Ministry of Health) to show the relationship between the number of beds (dependent variables) and the independent variables.

## **1.5 Significance of the study**

The purpose of this study was to measure the bed requirement for the 3 categories of hospital which are Mature Hospitals, New Hospitals and Relocated Hospitals. A comparative analysis from the retrieved sample data of the (8) eight KPJ Hospital were done using linear regression analysis as benchmarking exercise. It is anticipated that findings of this study will provide better understanding between the types and categories of hospitals that operate with the same parameters but different bed design requirement. It is expected that findings from this research will help hospital operators to further plan an early hospital development planning initiatives and mitigation plans to improve the hospital operation and services.

The 5 parameters identified from the sample of data of the eight (8) KPJ hospital will be analyze and the relationship will be formulated to show the relationship between a hospital bed capacity and the (5) five variables.

Findings from the parameters or variables through their categories are essential for the operators to take into consideration in planning and designing the right mitigation tools or activities to help to improve and project the optimum bed capacity to the stakeholder (patients and staff). Since there are lack of literatures and findings in determining the right sizing of a hospital, it could contribute to further knowledge enhancement in hospital design. Findings from this research will contributed to further knowledge in the area of hospital which are somehow lacking in the literatures.

## **1.6 Organizational of the thesis**

This thesis consisted of eight chapters and the overall thesis structure is as follows:

Chapter 1 introduce the Malaysia healthcare delivery system which is provided by public and private hospitals. Through this chapter the identification and background of this research study the healthcare data were included and to identify the three (3) objectives and the proposed scope of the study.

Chapter 3 described the research methodology that the detailed parameters of data collection from KPJ Berhad's hospitals were discussed and a statistical method to be used was proposed to test the correlation between parameters between the three (3) categories of hospital which are: (a) Mature hospitals, (b) New hospitals, and (c) Relocated hospitals.

The highlight of the findings was discussed in Chapter 4 which the case study of the Mature Hospitals from KPJ Berhad's hospital carried out. This chapter calculated and summarized the regression analysis and trend line for hospital that has



been newly established and operates between 30-40 years range. The analysis was done based on data collected from the year of 2014-2018.

Chapter 5 the highlight of the finding of New Hospital from KPJ Berhad's Hospitals categories. This chapter calculated and summarized the regression analysis and trend line for these newly hospital that age range between 10-20 years old. The analysis was done on data collected from the year 2014-2018.

Case study on Relocated Hospital from KPJ Berhad's Hospitals categories were discussed in Chapter 6. The findings on calculation and summary of regression analysis and trend line for hospital that have histories of operation. These hospitals were relocated into certain or targeted location due to improvising or increasing of the bed occupancy rate (BOR). The analysis was done data collected from the year 2014-2018.

In the Chapter 7 of the thesis covers two different parts. The first part shows the results obtained from the statistical analysis while the second part present the correlation analysis between the parameters or variables of the study.

Lastly, the Chapter 8 will provide summation and conclusion with recommendations to the whole research to meet the aim and objective of this thesis.

## **1.7 Summary**

This chapter has presented the background of study, problem statements, research objectives and scope of study. The next Chapter 2 follows several review of the literature related to this study.

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## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

### Indexed Conference Proceedings

1. Hassan, Y., Yahya, A., Yunus, J., Fikri, S., Idris, N., & Hamzah, H. (2020). THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FIVE ELEMENTS AND NINE VARIABLES IN HOSPITAL PLANNING. *Conference on "Emerging Trends in Applied Science, Engineering and Technology"* (pp. 267-274). Malaysia: Journal of Mechanics of Continua and Mathematical Sciences. doi:<https://doi.org/10.26782/jmcms.spl.9/2020.05.00027>
2. Hassan, Y., Yahya, A., Yunus, J., Fikri, S., Idris, N., & Hamzah, H. (May, 2020). PRINCIPLES IN DESIGNING THE HOSPITAL BUILDING. *Conference on "Emerging Trends in Applied Science, Engineering and Technology"* (pp. 259-266). Malaysia: Journal of Mechanics of Continua and Mathematical Sciences. doi:<https://doi.org/10.26782/jmcms.spl.9/2020.05.00026>

### Non-Indexed Conference Proceedings

1. **Hassan, Y.,** Yahya, A., Yunus, J., Fikri, S., Idris, N., & Elias, L. H. (November, 2021). DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS HOSPITAL. *International Teleconference on Technology and Policy for Supporting Implementation of COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan in Southeast Asia (ITTP-COVID19). 1*, pp. 1-1. Malaysia: ITTP-COVID19.