

ELECTIVE (SSC5c) REPORT (1200 words)

A report that addresses the above four objectives should be written below. Your Elective supervisor will assess this.

Describe the pattern of disease/illness of interest in the population with which you will be working and discuss this in the context of global health: What are the most significant health issues in Malaysia? And how does this compare to Western countries?

Major health concerns in Malaysia consist of coronary heart disease, stroke and influenza. Surprisingly HIV and AIDS are also amongst the major top 5 causes of deaths in Malaysia. Obesity is beginning to become a major health concern in Malaysia however this still lags behind western countries.

Alcohol related problems are a major disease burden in western countries, however in Malaysia, which is a predominantly muslim country, alcohol related disease and alcohol related deaths are not a major concern. WHO quotes that '62% of adults abstained from alcohol in the past 12 months'.

Describe the pattern of health provision in relation to the country which you will be working and contrast this with other countries, or with the UK: Explain the health structure organisations and delivery in Malaysia. How does this compare and contrast with the UK?

The health care organisation in Malaysia differs very much to the health care system in the UK. Malaysia has two types of patient care; privately funded and governmental hospital care. The patients pay a small fee for their care in the government hospitals. There is a massive difference between the health care in private hospitals compared to the health care in governmental hospitals as infection control and nursing care is more efficient in privately funded hospitals. However, overall this split system works very efficiently for the Malaysian population.

In the UK the clinical care in the NHS and privately funded is not very different, the main thing that differs is the availability of private appointments and treatments,

It was interesting to see this difference as it made me appreciate the NHS, its structure and benefits a lot more.

Health related objective: What is a major health concern in Malaysia and how is it addressed?

A major health concern in Malaysia is the lack of medical care in more rural areas. The government hospital of Kuala Lumpur is a very big medical centre and serves a very big population of patients. Patients living in rural areas at the present time have to travel quite a bit to gain access to basic health care. The government at the present time is hoping to develop a system where patients in rural areas can access primary care through a system named 'tele-primary care'.

Personal/professional development goals.: Reflect on my learning experiences during my elective and how these will impact my future practice as a Doctor

The Doctors leading the ward rounds in the government hospital had a lot of clinical experience. In the UK as we depend on a lot of radiological evidence to identify disease we do not consolidate as much clinical knowledge and experience due to the availability of such resources. However in Malaysia I noticed that a lot of decisions were based on clinical findings. This has made me realise that despite the resources that I will have available as a Doctor I should aim to develop my clinical experience and not rely fully on radiology and other investigations.