



WAYFINDING FOR ALL: CASE STUDY MALAYSIAN  
PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC

BY

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## ABSTRACT

Wayfinding system plays a very crucial part in a complex design environment. This is especially evident in the environment of healthcare sector where various medical departments are located. The various types of users such as patients, visitors, and staff that visit the healthcare sector also need to be considered where they will be consist of people with disabilities and elderly that needs special elements in wayfinding system that help them navigate through the complex environment. This research aim to develop and recommends best practice for wayfinding for all as a set of tools for design practice in a public primary health clinic. The research methods and strategy that are applied are content analysis and case studies that will consist of evaluation through observation, access audit questionnaires and interview. Objectives of this research are (i) to assess the level of accessibility of existing facilities for PwDs and elderly as well as to identify levels of wayfinding in existing primary healthcare environment, (ii) to identify the relationship between levels of accessibility, level of wayfinding and wayfinding performance, and finally (iii) to identify different elements of wayfinding and to suggest wayfinding guidelines for all as a set of tool for design practice in primary health care environment. Firstly, through a rigorous literature review on wayfinding and wayfinding for PwDs, wayfinding design aspects for PwDs were identified. Secondly, based on existing knowledge of wayfinding and healthcare environment, wayfinding design parameters that are related to enabling wayfinding environment to PwDs will be developed. Thirdly, four evaluation tools; Universal Design Environment Assessment (UDEA), Wayfinding Environment Assessment (WEA), Wayfinding Design Parameter Rating Scale (WPRS), and Wayfinding Performance Assessment (WPA) are applied. Fourthly, previously identified wayfinding design parameters are further evaluated using Wayfinding Design Parameter Rating Scale (WDRS) by the users for their relevance. Finally, based on the findings, wayfinding guidelines for all, as a set of tools for design practice are developed to aid the architects and designer. Then study of the performance of the user using Wayfinding Performance Assessment (WPA) in relation to Universal Design Environment Assessment (UDEA), and Wayfinding Environment Assessment (WEA) are studied in each case study. The sample sizes collected for WPRS and WPA is 58 and 143 respondents respectively. The research led to the new findings on the existing situation of wayfinding in the Malaysian public health clinic, its improvement and effective wayfinding that fit for all. The case studies that are studied in this research are Klinik Kesihatan Presint 9 and Klinik Kesihatan Presint 18. Limitations of the research are limited time, finance, and human resources for research as well as research in the scope of Malaysian public health clinic. This research offer relevant information to wayfinding for all that can lead to improved user satisfaction, safety and user flow in Malaysian public health clinic. The suggested wayfinding design model has practical implications for architects and designers and offer some suggestions and possible solution, which act as tools for site design and building design of an inclusive primary healthcare environment.

## خلاصة البحث

نظام Wayfinding يلعب دوراً حاسماً جداً في بيئة تصميم معقدة. هذا واضح بشكل خاص في بيئة قطاع الرعاية الصحية حيث توجد أقسام طبية مختلفة. يجب أيضاً مراعاة الأنواع المختلفة من المستخدمين مثل المرضى والزائرين والموظفين الذين يزورون قطاع الرعاية الصحية حيث سيتكونون من أشخاص ذوي إعاقات وكبار السن الذين يحتاجون إلى عناصر خاصة في نظام تحديد المسار الذي يساعدهم على التنقل عبر البيئة المعقدة. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تطوير ويوصي بأفضل الممارسات لإيجاد طرق جديدة للجميع كمجموعة من الأدوات لممارسة التصميم في عيادة صحية أولية عامة. كانت أساليب البحث والاستراتيجية التي يتم تطبيقها هي تحليل المحتوى ودراسات الحالة التي ستألف من التقييم من خلال المراقبة، واستبيانات تدقيق الوصول والمقابلة. تكون أهداف هذا البحث كالتالي (1): تقييم مستوى الوصول إلى المرافق القائمة للأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة والمسنين وكذلك لتحديد مستويات التسيير في بيئة الرعاية الصحية الأولية القائمة، (2) تحديد العلاقة بين مستويات إمكانية الوصول ومستوى التوجيه. (3) وأخيراً، تحديد تحديد عناصر مختلفة لإيجاد الطريق واقتراح إرشادات توجيهية شاملة للجميع كمجموعة من الأدوات لممارسة التصميم في بيئة الرعاية الصحية الأولية. أولاً، من خلال مراجعة أدبية صارمة حول تحديد طرق وإيجاد طرق ل PwDs ، تم تحديد جوانب تصميم لجودة PwDs وثانياً، استناداً إلى المعرفة القائمة لسبل البحث عن البيئة وبيئة الرعاية الصحية، سيتم تطوير بارامترات تصميم مسار التوجيه ذات الصلة بتهيئة بيئة التسيير السريع للأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة. ثالثاً، أربع أدوات تقييم؛ يتم تطبيق تقييم بيئة التصميم العالمي (UDEA)، تقييم بيئة تحديد المواقع (WEA)، مقياس تقييم معلمات تصميم Wayfinding (WPRS) ، وتقييم أداء Wayfinding (WPA). رابعاً، يتم تقييم معلمات تصميم مسارات التعرف المحددة مسبقاً باستخدام مقياس تقييم معاملات تصميم Wayfinding (WDRS) من قبل المستخدمين لملاءمتها. وأخيراً، وبناءً على النتائج، تم تطوير إرشادات التوجيه الخاصة بالجميع، كمجموعة من الأدوات لممارسة التصميم لمساعدة الممارسين والمصمم. ثم يتم دراسة دراسة أداء المستخدم باستخدام تقييم أداء Wayfinding (WPA) فيما يتعلق بالتقييم العالمي للبيئة التصميم (UDEA)، والتقييم البيئي ل Wayfinding (WEA) في كل دراسة حالة. إن أحجام العينات التي تم جمعها ل WPRS و WPA هي 58 و 143 مستجيباً على التوالي. وأفضى البحث إلى النتائج الجديدة حول الوضع الحالي لاستئصال المرض في عيادة الصحة العامة الماليزية، وتحسينه وفعالته الفعالة التي تناسب الجميع. كانت دراسات الحالة التي تمت دراستها في هذا البحث هي Klinik Kesihatan Presint 9 و Klinik Kesihatan Presint 18. إن قيود البحث هي وقت محدود، وموارد مالية، وموارد بشرية للبحث بالإضافة إلى الأبحاث في نطاق عيادة الصحة العامة الماليزية. يقدم هذا البحث معلومات ذات صلة إلى كل ما يمكن أن يؤدي إلى تحسين رضا المستخدمين وأمانهم وتدفعهم في عيادة الصحة العامة الماليزية. والنموذج المقترح لتصميم نظام Wayfinding له آثار عملية للمهندسين المعماريين والمصممين ويقدم بعض الاقتراحات والحلول الممكنة، والتي تعمل كأدوات لتصميم الموقع وتصميم بناء بيئة الرعاية الصحية الأولية الشاملة.

## APPROVAL PAGE

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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## **ABBREVIATION LIST**

HPV	Human papillomavirus
KKM	Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia
KKP9	Klinik Kesihatan Presint 9
KKP18	Klinik Kesihatan Presint 18
PwDs	People with Disabilities
UDEA	Universal Design Environment Assessment
WEA	Wayfinding Environment Assessment
WHO	World Health Organization
WPA	Wayfinding Performance Assessment
WPRS	Wayfinding Design Parameter Rating Scale

## GLOSSARY

Environment	An indoor or outdoor setting or condition that influenced how people feel, behave, or work
Institution	An organization, facility or establishment in which exists to serve a public purpose such as education or support for people who need help
Human papillomavirus	Human papillomavirus is the most common sexually transmitted infection
Primary care	Health care provided by a medical or health-care professional with whom a patient has initial contact with the health-care system and who may refer the patient to a specialist if necessary
Sector	Subdivision of a system

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter explain the background studies, problem statements, issues, research questions, research objectives, scope, limitations, significance of contribution, and structure of this research. This thesis consisting of six chapters. This chapter elaborates on the problem statement, research questions, objective, scope, limitation, and significance of the study.

### **1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

This research deals and outlines the existing facilities for PwDs, level of wayfinding and wayfinding performance of PwDs and elderly in a primary health care environment. Author Anderson et al., (2006); Rooke, Tzortzopoulos, Koskela, & Rooke, (2009) said, designing wayfinding for complex and public spaces or building such as hospital would pose an immense challenge as it associated with designing for 'different levels of knowing' and 'different needs' of the user. The user group would include elderly and various people with disabilities such as wheelchair user, vision impaired, hearing impaired, speech impaired, autism and learning disability. Wayfinding systems need to be universally effective to all group of user. Wayfinding systems often neglect the needs of the disabled community. For example, most signage is install only to the eye level of able-bodied but disregards the eye level of a wheelchair person and children.

More detail wayfinding best practices need to be outlined. Most research is concentrating on wayfinding for the able-bodied, not much research being found

concentrating on wayfinding from the perspective of elderly and people with disabilities in a complex environment such as healthcare sector in Malaysia. The findings will support and add to the previous finding. This study will enrich the literature since the discussion on this issue is limited. Therefore, this study will identify elements of effective wayfinding, evaluate existing condition of wayfinding in a complex environment in Malaysia and provide a recommendation on improvement on existing wayfinding in a complex environment. The identification of the elements of effective wayfinding and suggestion made to improve the existing wayfinding in a complex environment will serve as data to form a framework for effective wayfinding for all as a product of this study.

### **1.3 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

Much literature on the issues of facilities for PwDs and elderly in a healthcare environment can be identified. Several studies already focusing on the facilities for PwDs and elderly in a healthcare environment. Despite the extensive research on the facilities for PwDs and elderly in healthcare, not much-known research has been done in the Malaysian primary health care context. There is still unclear situation on the existing facilities for PwDs and elderly in primary health care environment in Malaysia.

Poor coordination and balance, epilepsy, poor attention span in autism may require the building to be made physically accessible (Khare& Mullick, 2008). Since user of primary health care consists of various types of users including PwDs and the aged, the study also study the relationship of existing facilities for PwDs with wayfinding level and wayfinding performance. There is an unclear level of

wayfinding for PwDs and the aged in the primary healthcare environment and its relationship with universal design and wayfinding performance.

Several literature such as J.Carpman, (1995); Rousek& Hallbeck, (2011); Lee& Kline, (2011); Rooke, (2012) supported that one of the factors that caused stress to visitors is wayfinding. Not only it causes stress to patients and visitors but several studies conducted in healthcare environment shows that it also cost money due to the time spent by the staff explaining wayfinding to visitors while the time can be put into running the healthcare efficiently and missed doctor's appointment due to navigation problem in the healthcare environment (C. Zimring, 1990). The study by J.Carpman, (1995) already identified the typical wayfinding problem associated with wayfinding in healthcare facilities, which is unfamiliar medical terminology which confuses the visitor, display more than one sign that says different name, and lack of identification sign. However, the study carried out by J.Carpman, (1995) was to all visitors and not specified to the elderly and people with disabilities. Author Rooke, (2012) stated that there is a need to identify and formulate better or more effective wayfinding in a complex environment.

According to Rahaman, (2014), Malaysian standard and policies serve to ensure access for people with disability. Many literature focuses wayfinding for normal people such as J.Carpman, (1995);Churchill, Dada, de Barros, & Wirasinghe, (2008); Hashim, Alkaabi, & Bharwani, (2014); Rooke, (2012) but little study have been done for the elderly and people with disabilities. According to Hashim et al., (2014), user comprehend sign in a various way, thus, signage needs to be tested on elderly and people with disabilities especially people with limited literacy. Author Lee, Seda, Sun, & Coskun, (2014) stated that age affects greatly incomprehension of pictorial sign used in their studies and further study is needed to understand the