# DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION MODELS FOR HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (HIS) IN MALAYSIAN PUBLIC HOSPITALS

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicated my work to my beloved husband, Wazli..

My beloved mother, Norrisah..

My beloved grandmother, Hajah Fatimah..

My brother, Faizul, and all my families,

Without them, I would not go this far.

Thanks for your love, caring, understanding and huge support.

I love you all till 'Jannah'.

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Studies have shown that Hospital Information System (HIS) implementation improve hospital's management and activities in terms of cost and time reductions. However, there are only 15.2% out of 138 Malaysian Public Hospitals implemented HIS. Literatures have further highlighted various issues and challenges with regards to its implementation. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the implementation of THIS, IHIS and BHIS's hospitals as well as factors affecting them. This study employed a mixed methods approach to answer the research objectives. In the first phase of this study, semi-structured interviews were conducted with nine participants consisted of the hospital directors, Information Technology officers and HIS users. It is found that THIS's hospital implementation phases differed from IHIS and BHIS's hospitals, while IHIS and BHIS's hospitals have similar phases based on Business Interaction Phases of Business Action Theory. Human context was discovered to play important roles in the HIS implementation. A survey was conducted in the second phase of this study among HIS users at different categories of HIS's hospitals. Two hundred and twenty-nine questionnaires were returned to yield a response rate of 45.8%. Based on ANOVA findings, factors affecting THIS implementation were significantly different from those in IHIS and BHIS's hospitals. There was no significance different between IHIS and BHIS's hospitals. There are three major contributions of this study: 1) Distinctive implementation phases for THIS hospital and IHIS-BHIS hospital were discovered for HIS implementation. 2) New models of HIS implementation which highlight the Human context were proposed, and 3) Different factors were found to affect HIS implementation at different types of HIS's hospitals.

#### **ABSTRAK**

Kajian menunjukkan bahawa pelaksanaan Hospital Information System (HIS) telah meningkatkan mutu pengurusan dan aktiviti hospital khususnya di dalam perbelanjaan dan pengurangan masa. Walau bagaimanapun, hanya 15.2% daripada 138 buah Hospital Awam di Malaysia melaksanakan HIS. Kajian literatur menekankan pelbagai isu dan cabaran berhubung pelaksanaannya. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk meneroka pelaksanaan hospital THIS, IHIS dan BHIS serta faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya. Kajian ini menggunakan mixed method untuk menjawab objektif kajian. Dalam fasa pertama kajian ini, temuramah separa berstruktur telah dijalankan dengan sembilan orang peserta kajian dari kalangan pengarah hospital, pegawai Teknologi Maklumat dan pengguna HIS. Kajian mendapati fasa pelaksanaan hospital THIS berbeza dari hospital IHIS dan BHIS, manakala hospital IHIS dan BHIS mempunyai fasa yang sama. Konteks Kemanusiaan merupakan peranan yang penting dalam pelaksanaan HIS. Tinjauan dari borang kaji selidik telah dijalankan dalam fasa kedua kajian ini melibatkan pengguna HIS di kalangan kategori hospital HIS yang berbeza. Dua ratus dan dua puluh sembilan soal selidik bersamaan dengan 45.8% telah dikembalikan. Berdasarkan dapatan ANOVA, faktor mempengaruhi pelaksanaan THIS perbezaan signifikan dengan hospital IHIS dan BHIS. Tiada perbezaan signifikan di antara hospital IHIS dan BHIS. Terdapat tiga penemuan utama kajian ini: 1) Fasa-fasa pelaksanaan HIS yang berbeza di hospital THIS dan hospital IHIS-BHIS telah ditemui, 2) Model-model baru pelaksanaan HIS yang menekankan konteks Kemanusiaan telah dikemukakan, dan 3) Faktor-faktor yang berbeza menjejaskan pelaksanaan HIS di kategori-kategori hospital HIS yang berbeza.

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## LIST OF SYMBOL AND ABBREVIATION

 $\eta^2$  -Eta-Squared

BCS -Business Continuity System

HIS -Hospital Information System

BHIS -Basic Hospital Information System

IHIS -Intermediate Hospital Information System

IS -Information System

MOH -Ministry of Health

NMRR -National Medical Research Register

THIS -Total Hospital Information System

UTHM -Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia

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## **CHAPTER 1**

#### INTRODUCTION

## 1.0 Introduction

This chapter begins with a general overview on healthcare sector in Malaysia. It includes a problem statement, research questions, research objectives, significance of study, scope of study and operational definitions. The structure of the thesis is also presented at the end of this chapter.

In this study, Hospital Information System (HIS) is seen as an important national agenda in the Malaysian healthcare system. Thus, an implementable model of HIS needs to be developed to ensure that the HIS can be successfully executed in the near future. Accordingly, this study focuses on the development of an implementation model for HIS in Malaysian public hospitals.

# 1.1 Healthcare Background in Malaysia

Healthcare sector remains a significant indicator of quality of life of a nation. Therefore, each country continuously striving to improve their healthcare sector by enhancing the healthcare management, services and treatments.

In Malaysia, the healthcare sector is divided into three (3) categories which are public healthcare, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) healthcare and private healthcare (Ministry of Health, 2011; Rasiah, 2011). Under each category, there are hospitals and clinics. Public hospitals and clinics are administered by Malaysian Ministry of Health (MOH) to serve the public, while the NGO hospitals such as Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia are administered by universities to serve the university students and staff. The private hospitals and clinics, however, are administered by private bodies such as Pantai Holdings Berhad. Evidently, the public healthcare is the most important healthcare category in Malaysia because it has the largest number of hospitals and patients.

Improving national healthcare has been always a priority agenda since 6<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan (MP) but only in the 10<sup>th</sup> MP, the Malaysian Government launced several initiatives under Ministry of Health (MOH) to enhance Information Technology (IT) applications in public hospitals. Such initiatives are to ensure that public hospital services become faster, manageable and efficient, for example by implementing Hospital Information System (HIS) in Malaysian public hospitals. Therefore, this study focused on issues related to HIS implementation among public HIS's hospitals.

# 1.2 Problem Statement

Even though the Malaysian Government has played an important role to support the Public Healthcare especially the public hospitals, there are several pressing issues. Most of these issues are about the services provided by the hospitals.

According to Saari (2007) and Wee & Jomo (2007), the government hospital services are slow and inefficient where the patients need to wait for a long time to get their medical treatments. Pillay et al. (2011) claimed that the average waiting time from registration to getting the prescription slip is more than two hours in his study at Malaysian public hospitals.

Moreover, according to Ministry of Health (2012), the average negligence cases reported by the medical staffs are between five to eight cases a month and the number of negligence cases which reportedly in public hospitals in year 2000 to 2008 has increased

to 144 cases with 61.9% from the total cases are bought to court (Ministry of Health, 2012). In addition, public hospitals faced with increasing cost of healthcare expense every year in Malaysia (Ahmadi *et al.*, 2015). For example, RM 6,348,632.28 was spent on compensation cost for medical negligence cases from year 2000 to May 2009 (Bernama, 2009). Root cause of these cases often arised from large numbers of patients to be nursed at once and administrative tasks. The implementation of HIS is aimed to reduce these common management problems in public hospitals. Therefore, Malaysian Government has enhanced the healthcare quality and reduce the cost (Lee & Ramayah, 2012).

However, HIS implementation is not encouraging in where level of adoption of HIS is only 60% to 78% worldwide (Hsiao & Hing, 2012, Artmann et al., 2010). This might caused by different phases of HIS implementation in different categories of Hospital (Houser, 1984; Rossi et al., 2009). According to Malaysian Ministry of Health (2012), only 21 out of 138 or 15.2% of Malaysian Public Hospitals has implemented HIS. From 21 public hospitals that had implemented HIS, 7.8% is categorized as THIS, 1.4% as IHIS and 7.2% as BHIS.

Conversely, several factors have been claimed to influence HIS implementation for example high initial cost (Boonstra & Broekhuis, 2010; Smelcer et al., 2009), high initial physician time (Smelcer et al., 2009; Ganesh & Al-Mujaini, 2009), technology and technical matters (Boonstra & Broekhuis, 2010), lack of skills (Boonstra & Broekhuis, 2010) and ethical issues (Boonstra & Broekhuis, 2010; McKenzie & Kelly, 2002).

Similarly, Ahmadi et al. (2015) and Sulaiman & Wickramasighe (2014) found various factors affecting HIS implementation which could be delineated under the contexts of Technology, Organisation and Environment as proposed by TOE Framework (Tornatzky & Fleischer, 1990). Majority of these studies focused on THIS hospitals alone whereby existence of other factors unique to different categories of HIS could not be unearted. In addition, most of these studies are quantitative in nature.

Moreover, there are limited empirical studies on HIS in Malaysia. Most of these empirical studies only focused on implementation of THIS alone (Abdul Hamid, 2010; Ibrahim, 2007; Ismail et al., 2010; Abdullah, 2012; Mohd. Yusof et al., 2008; Hassan,

2012; Fadhil et al., 2012; Ismail & Ali, 2013; Mohd Amin et al., 2011; Mohamad Yunus et al., 2013), while others focused on Electronic Medical Records (EMR) since it was synonym with the HIS (Mohd & Syed Mohamad, 2005; Syed Mohamad et al., 2008; Nik Ariffin et al., 2010). None has studied the implementation of HIS in different categories of HIS in public hospitals. Lack of such study would limit our understanding on how to encourage HIS implementation in Malaysian Public Hospitals. This is because, most studies discuss HIS for one specific HIS category without integration and combination other categories of HIS.

## 1.3 Research Questions

The above of problem statements have led to three research questions as follows:

- (i) RQ1: How is HIS being implemented at THIS, IHIS and BHIS's hospitals?
- (ii) RQ2: What are factors affecting the HIS implementation at THIS, IHIS and BHIS's hospitals?
- (iii) RQ3: Is HIS implementation model similar across different categories of HIS's hospitals?

## 1.4 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, three research objectives have been formulated as follows:

- (i) RO1: To explore HIS implementation at THIS, IHIS and BHIS's hospitals.
- (ii) RO2: To explore factors affecting HIS implementation at THIS, IHIS and BHIS's hospitals.
- (iii) RO3: To test HIS implementation model across different categories of HIS's hospitals.

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