

**Project Report: Research and Documentary on Race-Based Ethnic Discrimination in
Malaysian Healthcare**
Jolie Gan

A special thanks to the Laidlaw Foundation, Professor Erica di Ruggiero at the University of Toronto, and the great people I met in Malaysia and Singapore. This one goes to you all.

This project aimed to investigate the impact of race-based ethnic discrimination on access to healthcare and healthcare quality in Malaysia. The primary goal was to shed light on the challenges faced by minority populations, particularly those in rural areas, and propose solutions for improving the situation. The project involved a research paper and a documentary featuring interviews with key informants and on-site visits to rural villages. This report outlines the specific work undertaken by the myself as the student researcher, the project's impact, and how its sustainability will be measured.

The main objective of the project was to raise awareness about the issue of race-based ethnic discrimination in Malaysian healthcare and to provide insights into potential solutions for addressing this problem. This occurred through both research and policy proposals as a two-pronged project approach.

During my two summers, I was directly responsible for:

1. Research Paper - As the student PI, I conducted extensive literature reviews, data analysis, and field research in Malaysia. I gathered data on healthcare disparities, historical context, and the current healthcare system structure. The research paper served as the foundational knowledge for the project.
2. Documentary: I directed and produced a documentary that featured 20 key informant interviews. This involved scriptwriting, filming, editing, and post-production. I also conducted on-site interviews and tours in rural villages to capture the lived experiences of minority populations.

What are some of the largest challenges I faced? As a solo female traveler, I faced no shortage of logistical challenges. I had to arrange interviews, navigate unfamiliar environments, and manage a tight schedule. This required effective planning and problem-solving skills.

Networking and outreach, especially with a cultural barrier, was another element that tested myt ability to plan with SMART goals. This ranged from contacting academics to Southeast Asian universities, history museums, and medical clinics to collect and disseminate the findings.

Let's talk about impact.

The project had a significant impact on both local and international levels:

- Awareness - The documentary and research paper raised awareness about race-based ethnic discrimination in Malaysian healthcare among a diverse audience, including scholars, students, and healthcare professionals.
- Education: The project provided valuable insights into the historical context and structural issues within the healthcare system, leading to a deeper understanding of the problem.
- Advocay: The project inspired discussions on health equity and policy changes among activists and scholars.
- International Reach: The project reached Southeast Asian universities, history museums, and medical clinics, fostering cross-border discussions and collaborations on health equity.

To measure the sustainability of the project, we will use the following:

1. Increase in Awareness: Within one year, track the number of views and shares of the documentary on online platforms. Aim for a 20% increase in views and shares compared to the initial release.
2. Scholarly Engagement: Within two years, assess the number of scholarly citations of the research paper. A potential aim for citations in academic journals or publications related to healthcare disparities and social justice.
3. Policy Impact: Within three years, monitor any policy changes or initiatives related to healthcare equity in Malaysia that can be attributed to the project's influence.

In conclusion, this project has made a significant contribution to understanding and addressing race-based ethnic discrimination in Malaysian healthcare. By setting specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals, I set out to ensure the project's sustainability and continued impact.