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**SAFETY BEHAVIOUR**

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**INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF SELF  
EFFICACY AND ACTIVELY CARING ON  
SAFETY BEHAVIOUR:  
A STUDY AMONG MEDICAL  
LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST**

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A STUDY AMONG MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST**

**By**

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**Dissertation Submitted to  
Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business,  
Universiti Utara Malaysia,  
in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

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## ABSTRAK

Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk meneliti dan mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam mengenai hubungan antara efikasi diri dan keprihatinan aktif ke atas gelagat keselamatan. Satu kajian telah dijalankan di kalangan 145 juruteknologi makmal perubatan. Data yang dikumpul melalui soal selidik telah dianalisis dengan menggunakan pakej statistik iaitu *SPSS* versi 17.0. Objektif kajian telah dijawab dengan menggunakan analisis statistik yang relevan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungan positif antara efikasi diri dan keprihatinan aktif terhadap gelagat keselamatan. Kajian juga mengemukakan maklumat yang berguna untuk membantu program intervensi gelagat keselamatan yang memberi tumpuan kepada ciri-ciri individu. Saranan baru untuk pembangunan rangka kerja teori dan penyelidikan juga dicadangkan untuk penyelidikan pada masa hadapan agar ia menjadi lebih komprehensif dan menyeluruh.

**Kata-kunci:** Efikasi diri, Keprihatinan aktif, Gelagat keselamatan

## ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to examine and gain a better understanding of the relationships between self efficacy and actively caring on safety behaviour. A cross sectional study was carried out among 145 medical laboratory technologists. Data which was gathered through a questionnaire survey which was analyzed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS) software 17.0. The research objectives were answered using the relevant statistical analyses. The results indicated that there is a positive relationship between self efficacy and actively caring on safety behaviour. This study also provided information considered useful for framing future research on safety intervention programmes that focuses on characteristics of individuals. New directions for future theoretical framework development and research are suggested for future research to be more complete and comprehensive.

**Keywords:** Self-efficacy, Actively caring, Safety behavior

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*If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning. Mahatma Gandhi*

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>MLT(s)</b>	Medical Laboratory Technologist(s)
<b>IMR</b>	Institute of Medical Research
<b>PPUM</b>	University Malaya
<b>HUKM</b>	University Kebangsaan Malaysia
<b>LAI</b>	Laboratory-acquired infection
<b>OSHA</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
<b>ISO</b>	International Organization for Standardization
<b>CDC</b>	US Centres for Disease Control
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>BSC</b>	Biological Safety Cabinet
<b>BSL-2</b>	Biosafety level-2
<b>BBS</b>	Behaviour based safety
<b>SCT</b>	Social Cognitive Theory
<b>OSH</b>	Occupational health and safety
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The medical laboratory services in Malaysia were established at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to support the development of medical practices in this country. In 1980, the annual workload reported by the laboratory service in each state ranged from 200,000 to 650,000 tests (Singh RB, 1982). In Malaysia, the majority of laboratory technologists work either in public hospital laboratories and research institutes such as the Institute of Medical Research (IMR). Some are also employed in Government University laboratories like those set up by University Malaya (PPUM) or University Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM). Others work in laboratories that are set up by private universities as well as privately owned clinical laboratories (Jegathesan, 1982). With the introduction of organised training programmes for medical laboratory technologists (MLT) in many government and public Universities in Malaysia, the number of trained medical laboratory technologists has increased considerably. With rampant advances in technological development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, currently a variety of laboratory tests and investigations that provide precise analytical data are available to help physicians make accurate diagnosis. It was estimated that about 240 million pathology laboratory tests were performed in Malaysia in 2006.

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