

COMMUNITY RESIDENCY PROGRAMME 2004
JURU, SEBERANG PERAI TENGAH

PREFERENCE OF
MODERN MEDICINE OVER
COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE
MEDICINE (CAM)



MBBS PHASE IIIA
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR

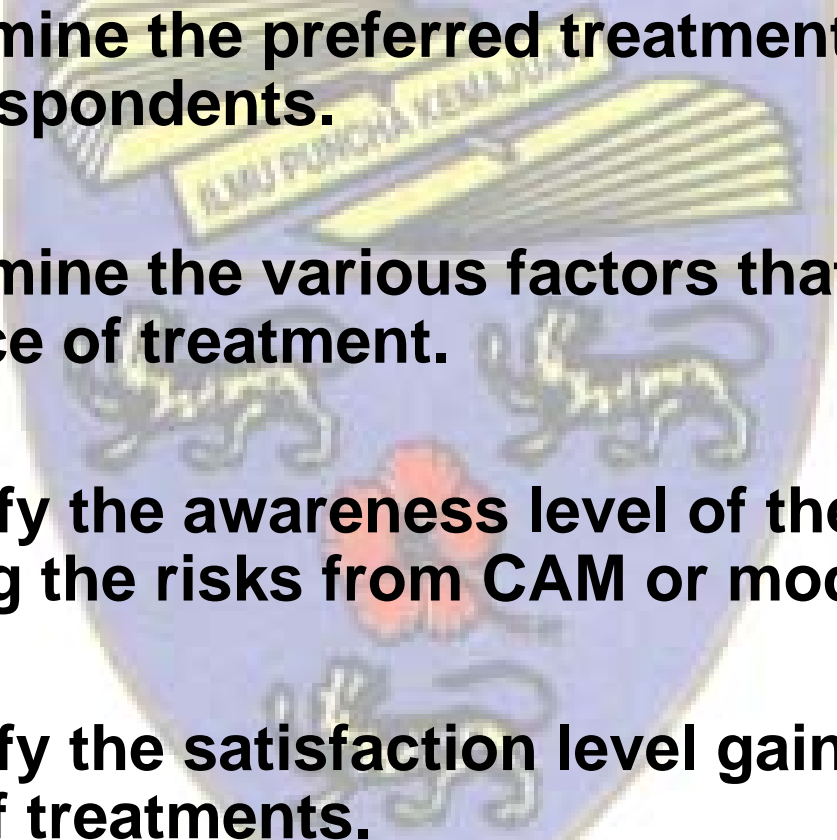


INTRODUCTION

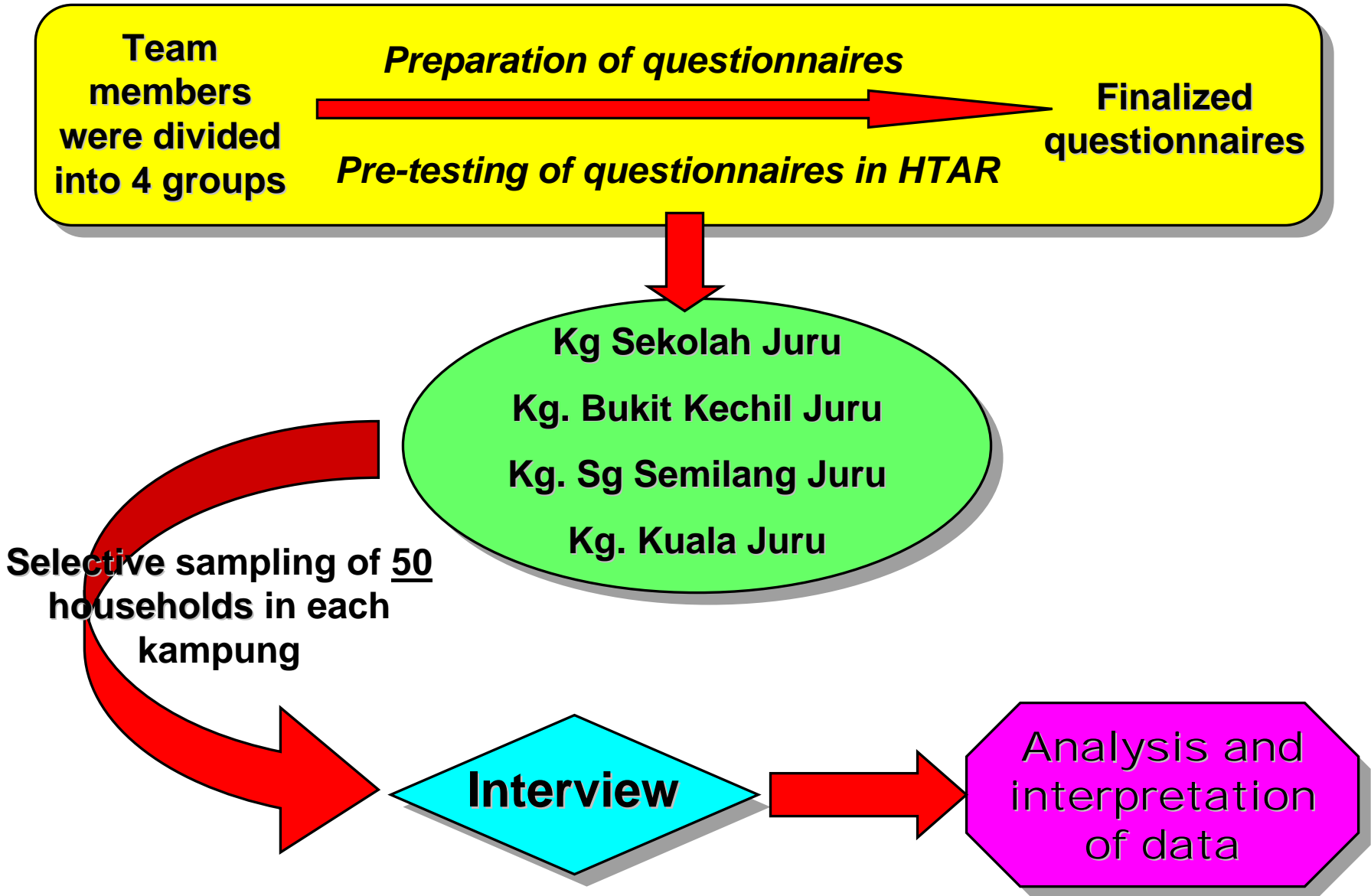


- a. **Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) covers a range of healing philosophies, approaches and therapies that mainstream Western medicine does not commonly use, accept, study or make available.**
- b. **It can be used alone (alternative medicine) or in combination with conventional medicine (complementary medicine).**
- c. **In this study, we categorized CAM into 4 groups; which are alternative, food supplement, therapeutic massage and mind-body intervention; which is similar to the classification used in international studies.**

OBJECTIVES

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- a. To determine the preferred treatment that is used by the respondents.
 - b. To determine the various factors that influences the choice of treatment.
 - c. To identify the awareness level of the respondents regarding the risks from CAM or modern medicine.
 - d. To identify the satisfaction level gained from their choice of treatments.

METHODS



ERRORS AND LIMITATIONS

Study sample

- ✓ **Total number of study subjects is not adequate.**
- ✓ **The number does not even pass half the total population in any one sub village.**
- ✓ **Defective in ideally representing the whole population of Mukim Juru.**
- ✓ **Skewed by ethnic constituency of the study population in which 99% of them were Malays.**

Interviewer errors (us)

- ✓ **Understanding of questions, language, subjectivity.**
- ✓ **Therefore, to reduce the above errors, pre-tests of the questionnaires and several briefings have been done in HTAR.**

Interviewee errors (them)

- ✓ **Inaccurate answers, assumptions, lack of understanding**
- ✓ **Discussions and reviews have been done everyday to minimize misunderstandings or differences.**

Survey limitations

- ✓ **No maps, non-participation.**
- ✓ **Draw own maps and try to obtain maximum co-operation from respondents.**
- ✓ **A lot of the houses situated in the deeper parts of the village were not assessed as there were problems of inaccessibility due to lack of clear paths or roads.**

STUDY SAMPLE

(a) Age distribution

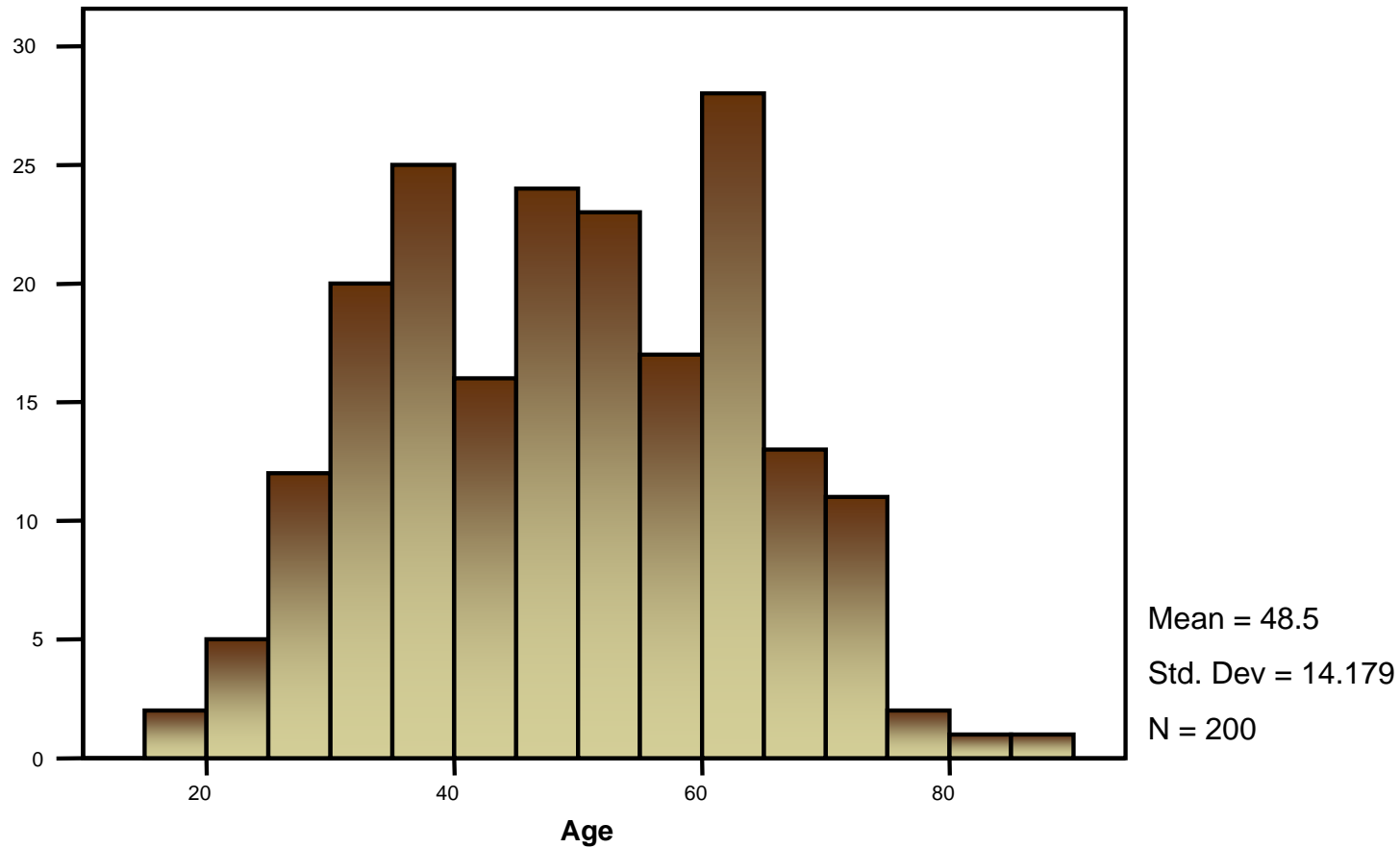


Fig.1.0 Distribution of age of the respondents in mukim Juru. (n=200).

STUDY SAMPLE

(b) Education level

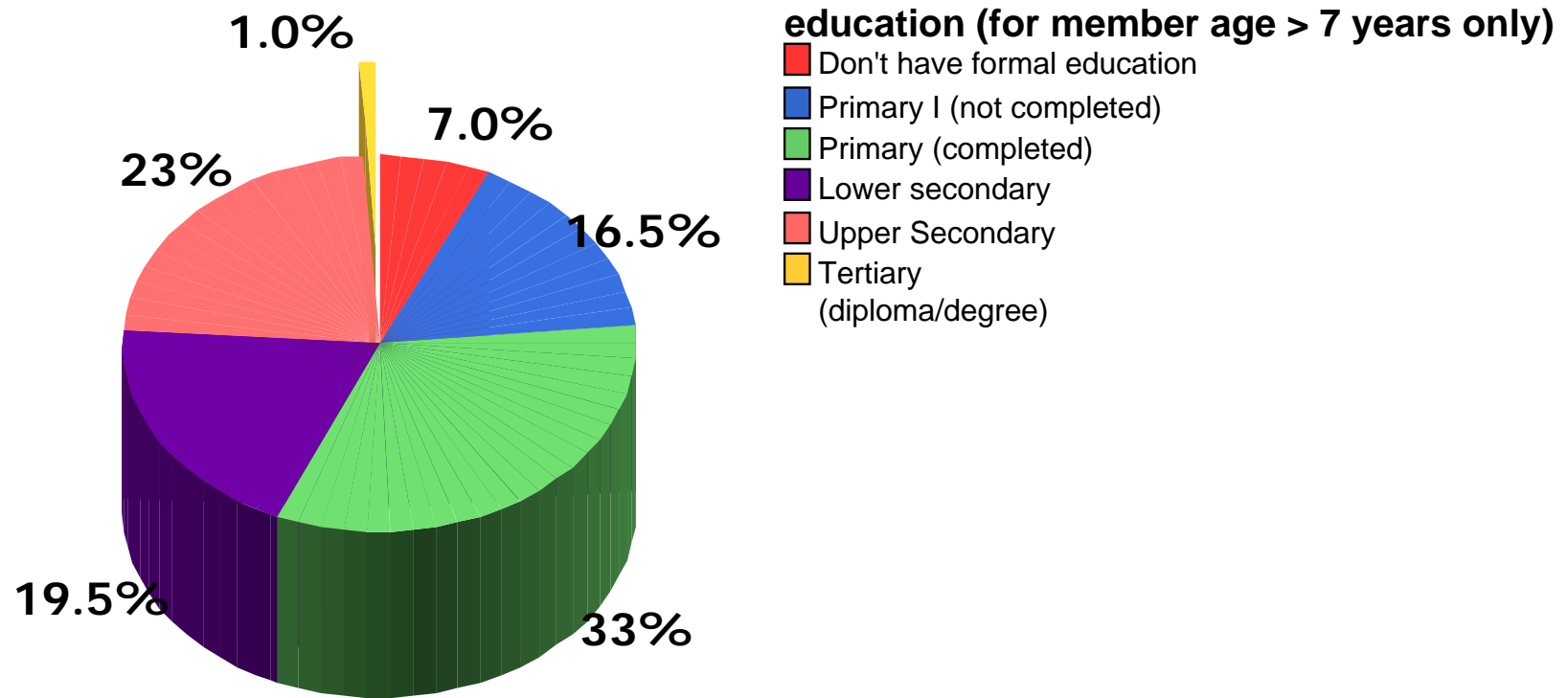


Fig. 1.2 Distribution of level of education among the respondents of mukim Juru. (n=200)

FINDINGS

1. What is your main choice of medical treatment? (*Apakah pilihan rawatan utama anda?*)

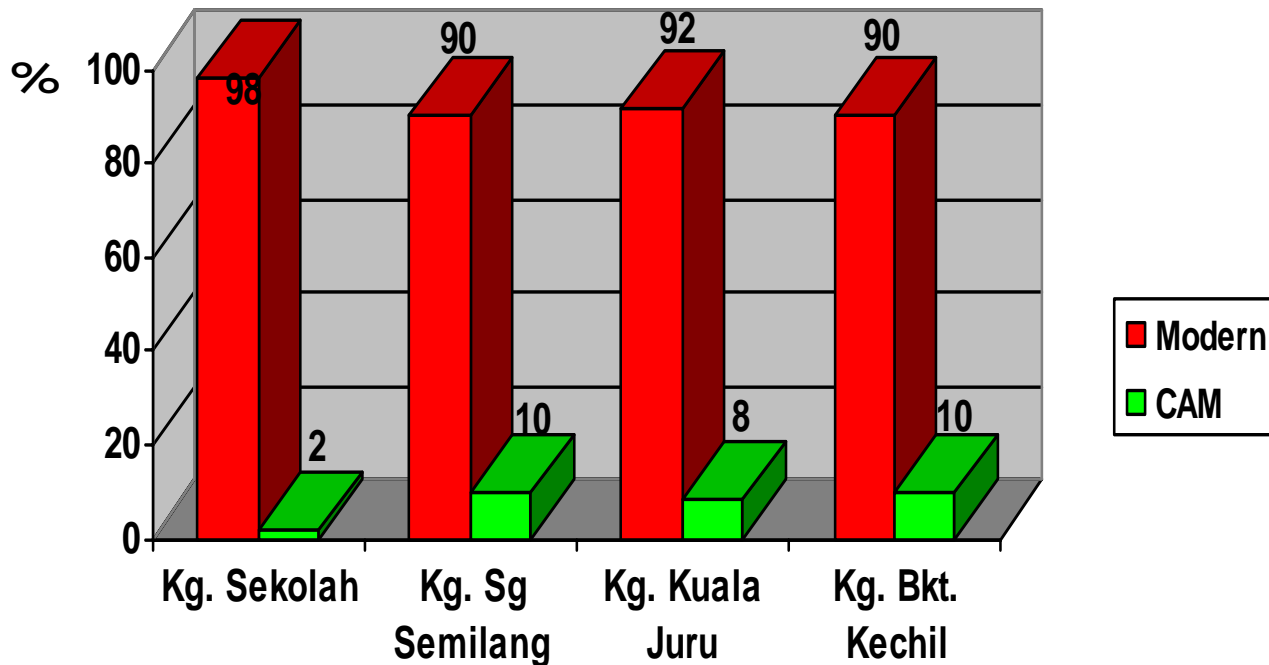


Fig 1.3 Choice of treatment for each village. (n=50)

probability of any difference between the usage of modern and CAM (complementary and alternative medicine) happening by chance is 0.377, p value is more than 0.05...

...there is **no doubt** about the fact that **modern medicine is more trusted as a best mode of therapy than CAM**

FINDINGS

2. Why do you choose that particular treatment?

(Mengapa anda memilih jenis rawatan tersebut?)

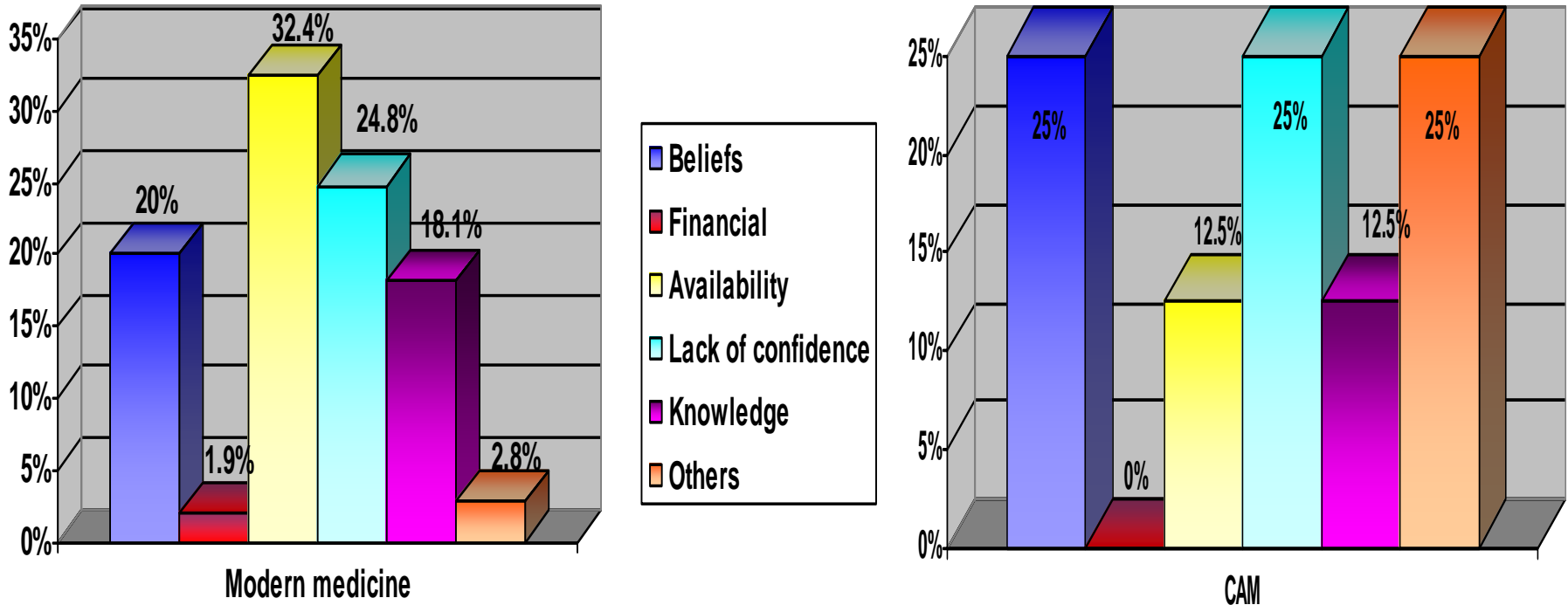


Fig. 1.4a Reasons for choosing either modern (n=105) or CAM (n=8) in **primary or lower education level** among the respondents of Mukim Juru.

FINDINGS

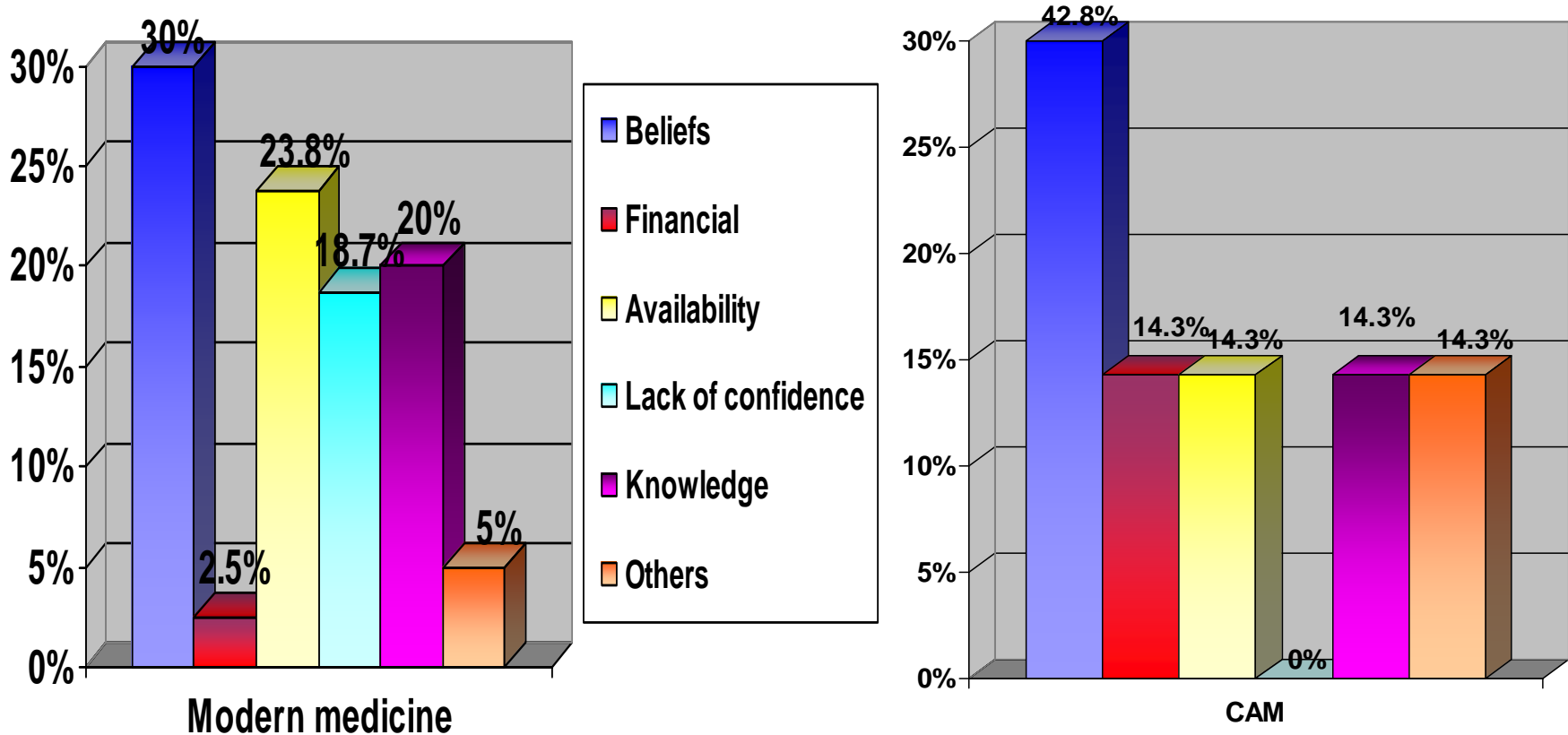


Fig. 1.4b Reasons for choosing either modern (n=80) or CAM (n=7) in **secondary or higher education level** among the respondents of mukim Juru.

FINDINGS

3. Do you know the risk of the particular treatment? (Adakah anda mengetahui tentang risiko rawatan tersebut?)

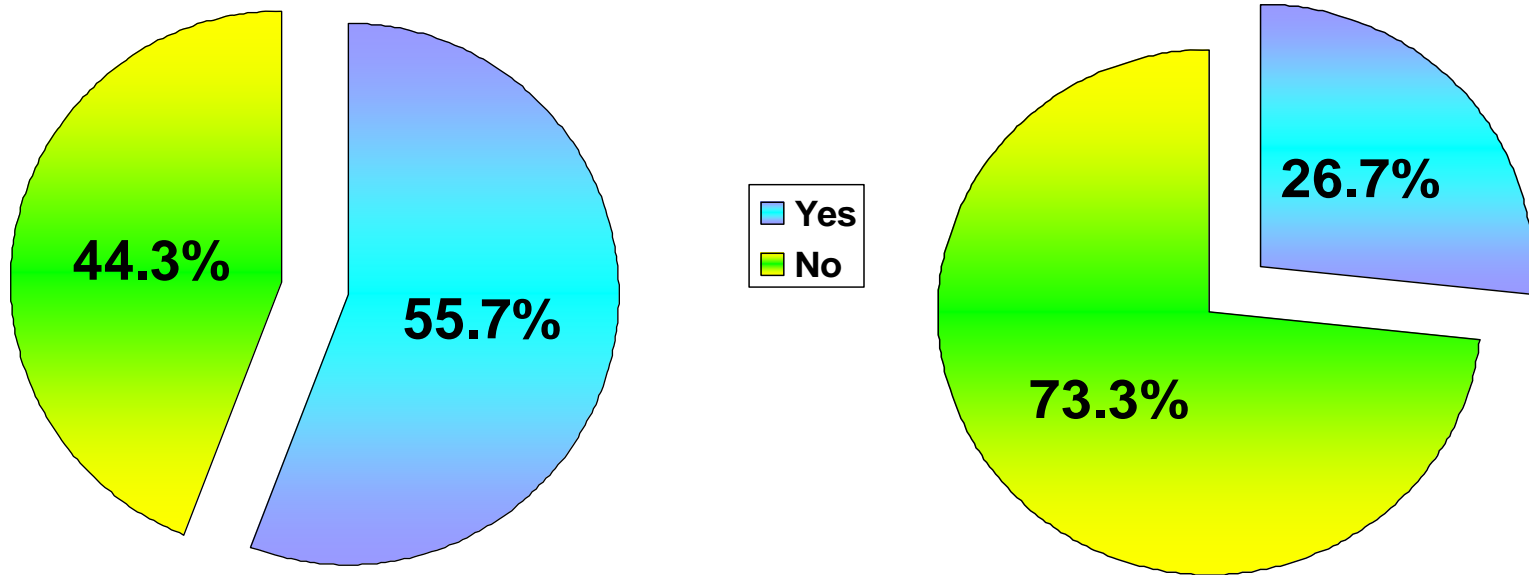


Fig. 1.5a Awareness of the risk of modern medicine among respondents of mukim Juru .(n=185)

Fig.1.5b Awareness of the risk of CAM among respondents of mukim Juru. (n=15)

FINDINGS

4. Are you satisfied with the treatment that you are receiving?

(Adakah anda berpuas hati dengan rawatan yang anda perolehi?)

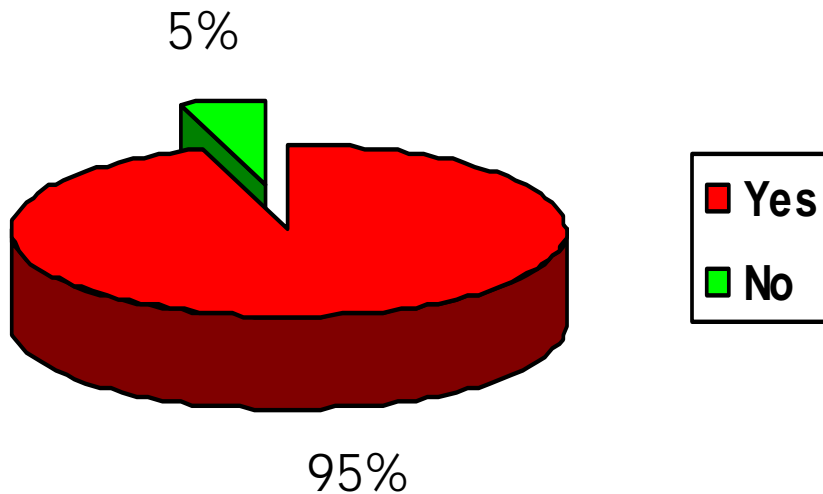


Fig 1.6a Satisfactory feedbacks among the respondents of mukim Juru who chooses modern medicine . (n=185)

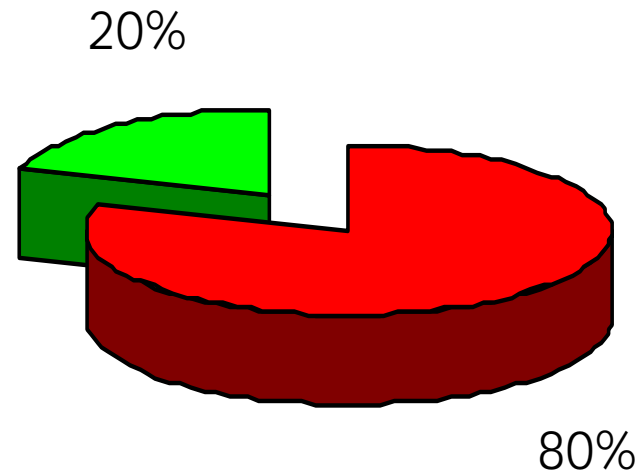
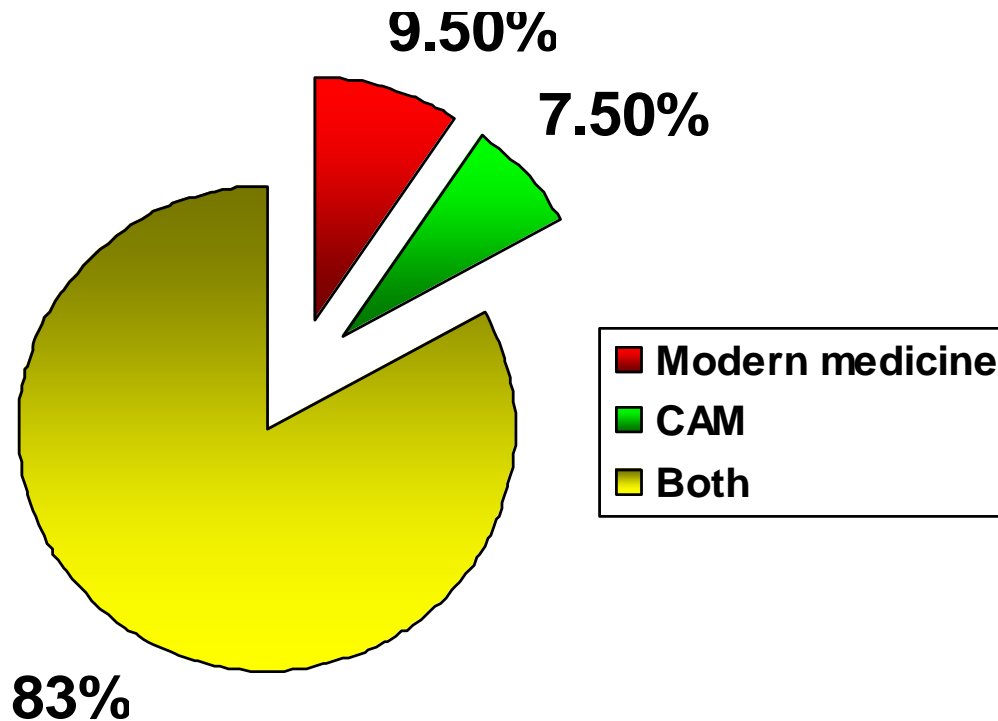


Fig 1.6b Satisfactory feedbacks among the respondents of mukim Juru who chooses CAM. (n=15)

FINDINGS

5. Have ever tried CAM?

(Pernahkah anda menggunakan rawatan komplementari dan alternatif?)



90.5% replied yes but only **7.5%** relied solely on CAM

Fig 1.7 Distribution of choice of treatment among the respondents of mukim Juru. (n=200)

FINDINGS

6. What is your choice of CAM?

(Apakah jenis rawatan pilihan anda?)

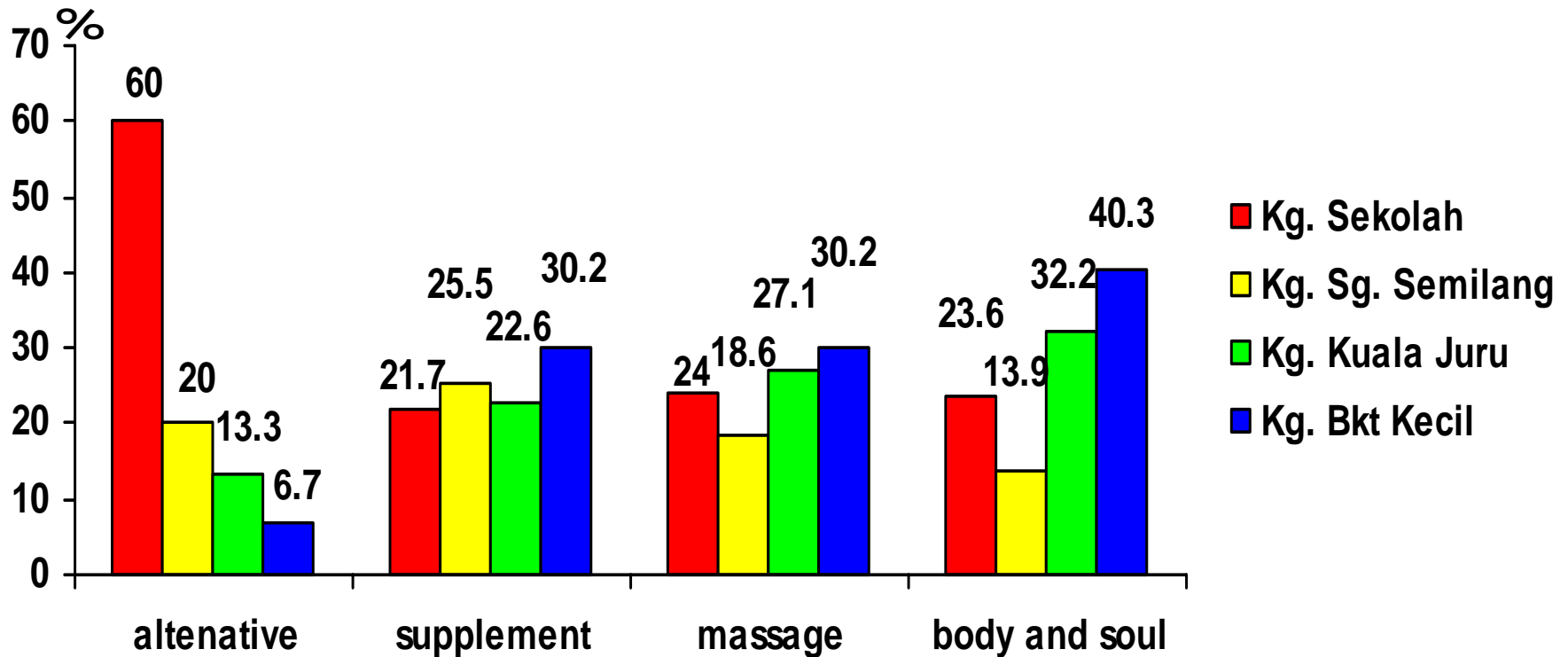


Fig 1.8 Preference of type of CAM which is practiced in different village. (n=200)

FINDINGS

7. Choices of treatment according to disease (Pilihan rawatan berdasarkan penyakit)

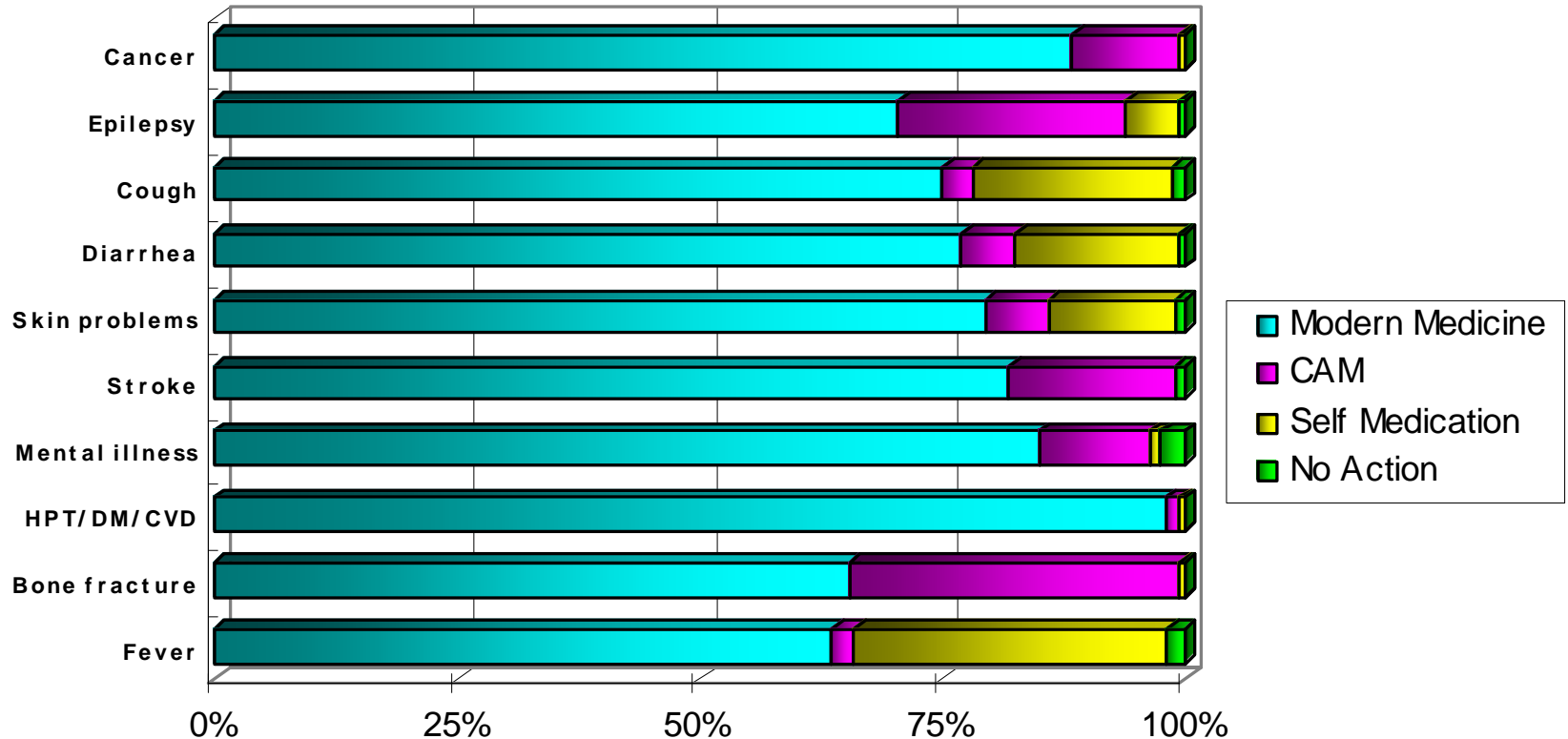


Fig 1.9 Choices of treatment according to disease among the respondents of mukim Juru. (n=200)

DISCUSSION



- A. Modern medicine is the best mode of therapy... CAM is still practice among the rural population.**
- i. Even though majority of villagers choose modern medicine as main treatment (92.5%), out of this 83% of respondents tried CAM once in their lifetime.
 - ii. As the name implies, CAM is a complimentary or alternative treatment for the villagers.
 - iii. However, there are still 7.5% of the respondents who are solely dependant on CAM.
- B. Choice of treatment is highly influenced by availability.**
- i. For villagers with primary or lower levels of education that preferred modern medicine, 32.4% of them choose their treatment based on its availability.
 - ii. For those with secondary or above levels of education, 23.8% still put availability as the reason, while 30.0% stated beliefs as the major influence to choose modern medicine as their choice.
 - iii. Villagers usually face geographical problems and transportation issues regarding healthcare, therefore availability of healthcare services is very important.

DISCUSSION



C. Awareness of risks between choices of treatment

- i. Most of them (53.5%) are aware of the risks involved in the their choice of treatment.
- ii. However, the knowledge of the risks involved among the respondents of modern medicine is higher (55.7%) compare to respondents of CAM (26.7%).
- iii. This is because for modern medicine the information is easily accessible by the respondents.

D. Satisfaction level of villagers regarding choice of treatment.

- i. Higher percentage of villagers who choose modern medicine are satisfied with the treatment (95%), while only 80% (among respondents who choose CAM) are satisfied with CAM.
- ii. This may be due to the slow effects of CAM, the non-standardized therapy, encountered bad experience, high cost they have to pay, or simply its ineffectiveness.
- iii. However, the study population of those who chose CAM is not high enough to reflect the general population.



CONCLUSION

- **Modern medicine is more preferred in the rural area of Juru, according to the study sample. CAM is still popular due to the rural setting and ethnicity, but not as reliable or satisfactory (genuine, experimental, or questionable?).**
- **Accessibility is the biggest influence on the choice of healthcare in the study sample, followed by personal beliefs.**
- **Awareness of risks or side-effects of the treatment chosen is not high in the study population.**
- **Most of the users of modern medicine are satisfied with the treatment.**



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