

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, results from this study suggested that access to medicines in children living in poor households in Peninsular Malaysia appears to be good. However, the findings also revealed that barriers exist to access to medicines in this population, requiring further research and possible interventional measures to improve access to medicines for children in poor households. Considering access to medicines is a complex issue, more research is needed to gain a better understanding of these barriers. This study found that the main factor in accessing medicine for children among the poor is affordability or the buying power of the caregiver. It is clear that being poor raises a lot of issues relating to the health of children in the households. However in this study, children in poor households managed to be given medicines even though the financial ability of the household became a major barrier. This study also found that knowledge and awareness of the caregivers in seeking medicines for their children seemed to be good.

This study recommends further exploration on access to medicines for children in other population such as aborigines, rural agricultural small holders (such as FELDA, FELCRA and others) and unregistered or illegal immigrant households in future. The findings of this study would also support any researcher looking to study access to

medicines in children living in Sabah and Sarawak, as the findings from Sabah and Sarawak will give further perspective on this topic. There might be a variety of important findings and outcomes to be gathered from the vast number of resource-poor households in Sabah and Sarawak. The data collection tools used in this study can be used by other researchers to carry out a survey on the other aspects of access to medicines in other populations in Malaysia. It is hoped that the information from this study will support local and national measures especially by the Ministry of Health to improve access, safety, knowledge and awareness on paediatric medicines in this population, as well as to stimulate any further research into this area with the goal of improving overall child health.

