

## **Problem-solving skills and suicidal ideation among Malaysian college students: the mediating role of hopelessness**

### **ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** Recent evidence suggests that suicidal ideation has increased among Malaysian college students over the past two decades; therefore, it is essential to increase our knowledge concerning the etiology of suicidal ideation among Malaysian college students. This study was conducted to examine the relationships between problem-solving skills, hopelessness, and suicidal ideation among Malaysian college students. **Methods:** The participants included 500 undergraduate students from two Malaysian public universities who completed the self-report questionnaires. **Results:** Structural equation modeling estimated that college students with poor problem-solving confidence, external personal control of emotion, and avoiding style were more likely to report suicidal ideation. Hopelessness partially mediated the relationship between problem-solving skills and suicidal ideation. **Conclusion:** These findings reinforce the importance of poor problem-solving skills and hopelessness as risk factors for suicidal ideation among college students.

**Keyword:** Hopelessness; Problem-solving skills; Psychological tests; Suicidal ideation