

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH AMONG STATELESS PEOPLE IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Statelessness has existed in many countries for decades, such as Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, the Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kuwait, Myanmar, Russia, Syria, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and Malaysia. Despite lacking citizenship and appropriate documentation, stateless people have had their rights violated in a number of ways, regardless of whether they are children, women, or the elderly. Many of their rights have been violated because of restrictions imposed by both national and international laws. Due to this gap, this study aims to examine the issue of stateless people's accessibility to education and healthcare by conducting a systematic literature review using the SCOPUS database. In this paper, two search strings were used: (1) "stateless" AND "education" and (2) "stateless" AND "health." Although 95 documents were found when searching for the terms "stateless" and "education," only two of them were included in the analysis because they satisfied the inclusion requirements. Similarly, only two articles were chosen for additional examination out of 112 documents that were available for both "stateless" and "health." The findings of this study have been categorised into several themes: (1) restricted access to education for stateless children; (2) obstacles to maternal health care and birth registration for stateless women; (3) denied occupational and safety health for workers; (4) limitations in the international laws protecting human rights and children's rights; (5) political and legal barriers in Malaysia; and (6) unfavourable outcomes and risks faced by stateless people. Stateless individuals encounter challenges due to unclear national and international policies on healthcare and education rights. Hence, Malaysia must urgently address this issue in line with MADANI principles and SDGs for a prosperous and healthy nation.

Keywords: *Stateless, education, health.*

INTRODUCTION

A stateless person is defined as "a person who is not considered a national by any state under the operation of its law" (United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 2012). They are often referred to as non-persons, unclaimed, outcasts, legal ghosts, or the ultimate forgotten person (United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 2012). This lack of recognition denies them nationality and citizenship in any country. Throughout history, the rights of stateless individuals have been selectively acknowledged and overlooked, leaving them without access to fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, employment, and freedom of movement (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Malaysia, 2022). Malaysia presents numerous challenges for stateless individuals and stateless children, ranging from difficulties in obtaining nationality status to issues related to poverty, employment, housing, education, and healthcare. The process of obtaining nationality status is particularly challenging due to the lack of required documentation. For instance, failure to provide an official marriage certificate or register a child's birth within the stipulated timeframe (14 days) can result in the child being denied citizenship and subsequently becoming stateless (Basri & Balqis, 2021). According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Children's Act of 2001, a person under 18 years old is considered a 'child' (Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, n.d.). Therefore, children without official identity documents are termed stateless children. Consequently, they are deprived of the rights and treatment accorded to ordinary children, lacking an official identity (Sivanandam et al., 2020; Basri & Balqis, 2021). In the matter of fact, Malaysia lacks an official policy or law that provides a legal definition for stateless individuals or stateless children (Selvakumaran et al., 2020). Interviews with respondents from various government departments, including the Attorney General's Chambers, the Ministry of Education, the National Security Council in Sabah, and the Social Welfare Department in Putrajaya and Sabah, confirmed the absence of an official set of laws or legislation concerning stateless people or children (Selvakumaran et al., 2020).

However, the issue of stateless individuals, particularly stateless children, and their right to education has been extensively discussed in both the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) and the House of Senate Hansards (Dewan Negara). The discussions have focused on the need for specific laws or policies that effectively address the challenges related to nationality and the right to education for stateless children in Malaysia (Selvakumaran et al., 2020). These discussions highlight the urgent need to find appropriate solutions and develop comprehensive measures to ensure that stateless children are not deprived of their fundamental right to education (Selvakumaran et al., 2020). Therefore, this study aims to explore the available research published in reputable journals, focusing particularly on Scopus, to identify research gaps in the existing literature and propose novel insights

in this study area concerning access to education and healthcare for stateless people, along with the implications.

EVOLUTION OF THE STATELESSNESS ISSUE IN MALAYSIA

From the historical perspective, the issue of statelessness in Malaysia can be traced back to the era of World War II, particularly during the establishment of the Malayan Union by the British government (Ramli, 2010). The evolution of citizenship rights in Malaysia before independence is shown in Figure 2.1. The consequential debate over citizenship rights involving Malays, Indians, and Chinese resulted in the dissolution of the Malayan Union in 1946 and the establishment of the Federation of Malaya in 1948 (Ramli, 2010). During this period, there was opposition, notably from the Chinese community, against perceived discriminatory policies, which ultimately led to the amendments to the Federation of Malaya Agreement (Ramli, 2010). Moreover, the citizenship issue persisted, with further revisions in 1952 and subsequent amendments leading to the Federal Elections of 1955 (Ramli, 2010). The Reid Commission’s proposals regarding citizenship faced criticism from non-Malay communities, particularly the Chinese, highlighting language proficiency as a significant requirement (Ramli, 2010). Through extensive negotiations, the Federal Constitution of 1957 recognised and safeguarded citizenship rights for the non-Malay population (Ramli, 2010). However, in 1970, the citizenship issue resurfaced with the arrival of around 17,000 Filipino refugees in Sabah. Over time, the number of Filipino refugees increased, reaching 200,000 by 1986, partly due to births within the refugee community. This resulted in a significant number of stateless children lacking proper identification documents, like birth certificates. Consequently, the 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention were established to address the issue of statelessness alongside efforts aimed at prevention and reduction. These conventions receive additional support from various international human rights treaties and provisions that pertain to citizenship rights.

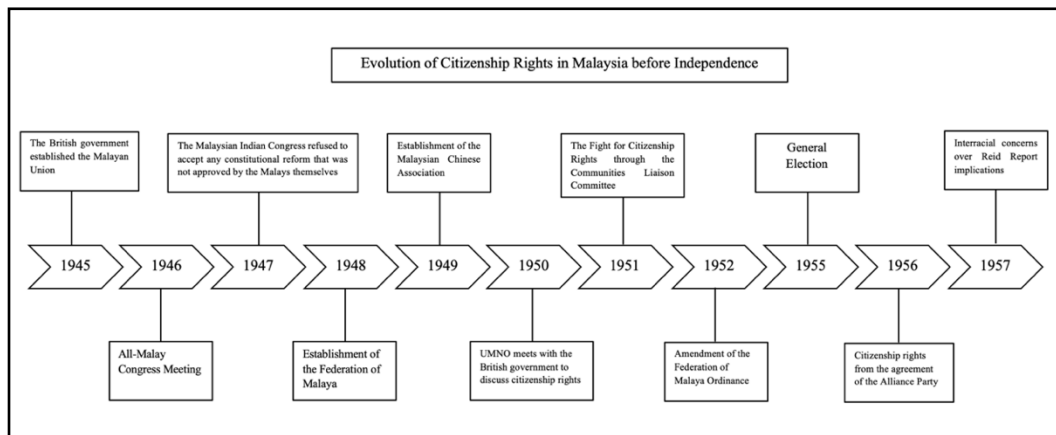


Figure 1: Evolution of Citizenship Rights in Malaysia before Independence
 Source: Self-developed diagram based on research from Ramli (2010)

THE RISING NUMBER OF STATELESS PEOPLE IN MALAYSIA

Statelessness is a significant global issue affecting individuals born and living in the countries they consider their home. Despite the increasing number of stateless people worldwide, there is currently no official data on stateless children in Malaysia. This lack of data is highlighted by Selvakumaran et al. (2022), who conducted interviews with officials from selected government ministries in Putrajaya and Sabah and found a shortage of official information on stateless children. In this light, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is instrumental in addressing statelessness globally, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2019). In Malaysia, the total number of stateless individuals reported is 113,930 (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2022); however, the actual figures may be unclear and potentially higher due to challenges in data collection. Notably, the number of stateless individuals has been increasing each year. As shown in Figure 3.1, the highest number of stateless people in Malaysia was reported in 2018, with over 9,600 individuals. From 2019 to 2022, the number of stateless people remains consistently high, surpassing 9,000. However, it is essential to recognise that these statistics are based only on reported and recorded cases, and the actual number of stateless people in Malaysia is unknown. As evident from both the statement and the graph, there are conflicting records of the population of stateless people in Malaysia provided by the same resource agency. This raises the argument that obtaining accurate numbers of stateless individuals may face obstacles due to uncovered areas in data collection, duplicated calculations, and other factors.

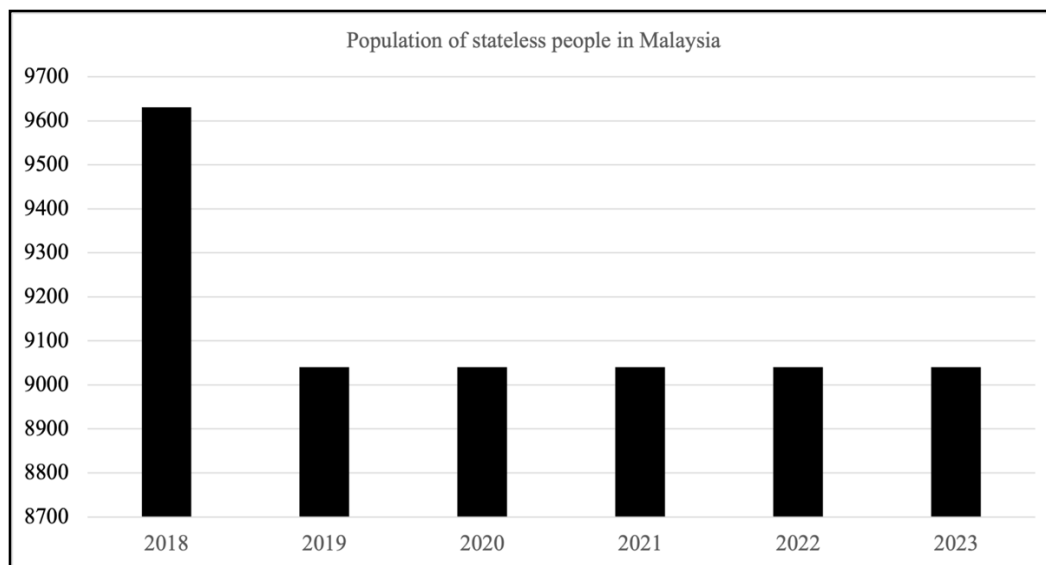


Figure 2: Population of stateless people in Malaysia

Source: Self-developed diagram based on statistics from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH AMONG STATELESS IN MALAYSIA

Imagine a world where every individual, regardless of their background, enjoys the privilege of human rights in their daily lives. These rights empower individuals to lead fulfilling lives and access various privileges provided by their country. But what if when an individual is not recognised as a citizen? What are the consequences for their future? Human rights are universal and should be granted to everyone without exception. They encompass freedoms such as freedom from slavery and torture, as well as rights to education, health, employment, and many more (United Nations, n.d.). Ideally, every individual deserves the full spectrum of human rights regardless of race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Despite this, the rights of stateless people have historically been overlooked and disregarded. Stateless individuals often encounter obstacles in accessing fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, employment, and freedom of movement. Without these fundamental rights, they may face a lifetime of challenges and disappointment (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2022).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Child Act of 2001 defined a “child” as a person under the age of 18. Selvakumaran et al. (2020) revealed that Malaysia lacks an official policy or law defining stateless individuals or children. Nevertheless, Malaysia upholds the National Child Policy 2009, which aims to foster the development of well-rounded individuals possessing qualities such as knowledge, good health, innovation, creativity, self-discipline, competitiveness, progressiveness, and strong values. This policy acknowledges the crucial role that children play as valuable resources for the nation’s future (The Malaysian Department of Social Welfare, 2023). In 2008, children accounted for 37.9% of the total Malaysian population, underscoring their significance in society (The Malaysian Department of Social Welfare, 2023). The Malaysian government is strongly committed to prioritising the well-being and best interests of children. In line with this commitment, Malaysia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 17 February 1995. This international convention places significant emphasis on protecting children and fulfilling their fundamental needs for survival, protection, growth, and participation (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). As a state party to the Convention, Malaysia is dedicated to fulfilling its responsibility of ensuring the safety and well-being of children, recognising its role as the future of the nation (The Malaysian Department of Social Welfare, 2023).

Unfortunately, Malaysia has not signed the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, or the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. On the other hand, several official child rights have been introduced since 1989. The Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 [CRC] affirms that every child is entitled to basic human rights, protection, fundamental freedom, dignity, and equality without exception. It stands as the most widely ratified international human rights treaty, ensuring the essential rights and safeguarding of all children worldwide. Notably, Article 2 of the CRC 1989 mandates that governments must uphold and honour the rights outlined in the convention for all children under their jurisdiction and be free from any discrimination. Additionally, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR] (1989), Article 3 of the CRC (1989) mentioned the importance of prioritising the best interests of the child in every state. Furthermore, the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons provides a comprehensive definition of stateless individuals and establishes crucial treatment standards concerning their nationality rights, freedom of religion, and education of their children.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

According to the definition of human rights, “all human beings have the right to education.” Education, especially at the primary and basic levels, should be free, with primary school education being compulsory (Basri and Balqis, 2021; United Nations, n.d.). Therefore, basic education should be accessible without the need for documentation like a passport or identity card. The Malaysian Federal Constitution prohibits any form of educational discrimination against individuals regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, or place of birth (Che Soh et al., 2019; Basri and Balqis, 2021). Unfortunately, this only protects the right to education for citizens, and the right to education for non-citizens, stateless people, or children without legally registered births is often overlooked.

Stateless children are denied their right to education from the start. These stateless children are discriminated against and prevented from the formal education system in Malaysia. Even if they manage to attend school, they are often ineligible for educational benefits such as free textbooks. Furthermore, pursuing higher education remains a distant dream, as stateless individuals are burdened with high tuition fees and lack access to financial aid. In addition, the stateless community is not eligible to apply for self-skills training programs under the government because it requires them to have valid identification. Another devastating scenario in Sabah is when schools outside the formal education system, established by the local communities are asked to close and demolished due to the complaints from Malaysian citizens (Venkov, 2019; Basri and Balqis, 2021).

The stateless people of Sabah view education as a great value and a source of hope. Sadly, while formal schooling is mandatory for Malaysian children aged between seven and twelve, stateless children do not have access to this privilege. This is evident in stateless people settlements like in the remote Pulau Berhala Sandakan island. There is only one education centre on the Island, which was established by the Malaysian military. With just two teachers and 236 students, the school provides basic, informal education to stateless children. The lack of teachers and other facilities limits the centre’s ability to offer formal classes to prepare the children to take national examinations or to apply for jobs. Due to this, a majority of stateless children are forced to engage in activities such as fishing and scavenging clams or seashells to help their families financially. Such missed educational opportunities have led to rampant illiteracy and the lack of employable skills among these children. In this regard, the absence of educational opportunities forced these children to stay in a vicious cycle of poverty from one generation to another.

ACCESS TO HEALTH

Most stateless communities struggle to access basic needs like healthcare and employment. The lack of financial resources available to them has forced them to become beggars in urban areas. Begging, mainly carried out by women and children, has led to negative perceptions among Malaysians, who criticise the children for playing truant and loitering on the streets. However, begging is often their last choice to avoid engaging in illegal activities like piracy and robbery to survive. This indicates the urgent need to address healthcare access for stateless communities in Malaysia. Therefore, ensuring universal access to healthcare is essential, requiring concerted efforts to address this issue in Malaysia. In fact, healthcare costs for non-citizens or stateless people in Malaysia are notably higher due to the elevated consultation and medical expenses at local clinics and hospitals (Wan Hassan & Peters, 2020; Basri & Balqis, 2021).

Unlike citizens, stateless people in Malaysia have no access to free healthcare. Thus, they are required to pay the full price for medical treatments and medicines, which can be double or more than the locals’ rate (Wan Hassan & Peters, 2020; Basri & Balqis, 2021). This financial burden is especially challenging for stateless individuals who have little or no savings and steady jobs to pay for their medical bills. As a result, stateless pregnant women frequently choose to have their baby traditionally with the help of non-medical trained midwives, posing increased risks for both mothers and babies. Stateless children who lack hygienic conditions and proper facilities are exposed to various health issues, including skin diseases, worm infections, skin wounds, malaria, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis (Wan Hassan & Peters, 2020; Basri & Balqis, 2021). Individuals without nationality or at risk of statelessness are often treated as illegal migrants, depriving them of essential human rights required for daily life due to their lack of official identity. Limited resources and accessibility to government healthcare facilities worsen health problems for stateless people, particularly those residing in rural areas. Therefore, addressing the healthcare needs of stateless communities is crucial to ensuring their well-being and reducing their vulnerability.

METHODOLOGY

A systematic literature review (SLR) involves collecting and critically analysing multiple studies or papers (Cruz-Benito, 2016). It is also a method of reviewing literature that aims to identify, evaluate, and interpret research findings on a specific topic to answer pre-defined research questions (Borret, 2018). In exploring research gaps and proposing new research directions in the context of access to education and health among stateless people in Malaysia, this study has adapted the systematic literature review (SLR) as conducted by Mengist et al. (2020). The process of conducting SLR involves four steps: (1) identification, (2) screening, (3) eligibility, and (4) inclusion.

(1) Identification

In conducting SLR, this study utilises only the Scopus database, which contains respectable publications and published peer-reviewed journals from all around the world (Perevochtchikova et al., 2019). This study has found two unique search strings that are relevant to this study. The search strings are (1) “stateless” AND “education” and (2) “stateless” AND “health.” The first-word string used in this study was “stateless” AND “education,” and subsequently, 95 publications appeared. This search string was developed to figure out the discussion involving access to education among the stateless in the Scopus database. The second-word

string used in this study was “stateless” AND “health,” which aims to explore the literature on access to health among the stateless. A total of 112 publications appeared in the Scopus database. Table 1 shows a summary of word strings and the number of articles that appeared in the Scopus database. The results showed that more research had been done on the health issues pertaining to stateless people globally than on educational issues.

Table 1
 Search strings from the Scopus database

Search Strings	All Fields	Date of Acquisition
Stateless AND education	95	28 January 2024
Stateless AND health	112	28 January 2024

(2) Screening

The following step is the screening process. The process of screening encompasses all domains comprising three categories, which are: (1) document type, (2) subject area; and (3) year of publication. Table 2 shows a summary of the number of articles based on the search string and domain. For the document types, this study selected “article” only, out of which 207 articles were chosen. Next, in terms of articles published in the “social sciences” field, there were 78 articles listed. Finally, only four articles from 2020 to 2022, a Malaysia-only publication, were selected for further in-depth analysis.

Table 2
 Number of articles based on the search string and domain

Search Strings	Articles	Social Science	Year (2020 – 2022) Malaysia
Stateless AND education	95	42	2
Stateless AND health	112	36	2
Total	207	78	4

(3) Eligibility

After completing the screening process, this study proceeds to the eligibility process. The eligibility process consists of both inclusive and exclusive criteria. The inclusion of this study includes (1) papers that are related to stateless people, (2) papers that are fully written in English, (3) the subject area must be in the “social science” field, and (4) papers comprising empirical and non-empirical studies. Meanwhile, the exclusive criteria are as follows: (1) papers that are inaccessible, (2) papers published before 2020, and (3) papers that exclude Malaysian context. The specific details of the paper criteria are shown in Table 3.

Table 3
 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria	Decision
Papers that related to stateless people	Inclusion
Papers must be fully written in English language	Inclusion
Subject area of Social Science	Inclusion
Empirical and non-empirical study	Inclusion
Papers that inaccessible	Exclusion
The paper published before 2020	Exclusion
Papers that exclude Malaysia context	Exclusion

(4) Inclusion

All the papers that have been filtered based on the criteria and have undergone an extensive process of identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion have been selected because they are the most relevant to the study. As a result, four papers related to this study are included. The specific details of the paper criteria are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
 Total publications in the study

Search Strings	Articles
Stateless AND education	2
Stateless AND health	2
Total	4

FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of this study revealed that, although 95 documents were found when searching for the terms “stateless” and “education,” only two of them were included in the analysis because they satisfied the inclusion requirements. Similarly, out of 112 documents that were available for both “stateless” and “health,” only two articles were selected for further review. Interestingly, the two articles on “stateless and education” dealt with the subject of education for minors who are stateless (Table 1). In contrast, one publication on “statelessness and health” focused on women, while the other one focused on adults (Table 2).

Based on the thematic analysis of the articles involved in this study, the findings were categorised into six key themes:

(1) *Restricted access to education for stateless children*

As previously mentioned, the majority of the debates surrounding education for stateless individuals concerned children. According to a study by Loo et al. (2022), stateless children are not citizens and lack legal documentation, which limits their access to education. In certain cases, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and some individual philanthropists help support this vulnerable population by providing education for stateless children. Notably, international human rights laws did not have any effect on stateless people (Selvakumaran, Hee, & Yusoff, 2020). Children without legal status are not entitled to an education. As such, they will not be able to break free from their cycle of poverty if they do not have the chance to pursue an education. As long as Malaysia does not take firm action to protect its human rights, there is no way to resolve the statelessness problem in this scenario.

(2) *Obstacles to maternal health care and birth registration for stateless women*

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda includes the UN goal of “providing legal identity to all,” but for Malaysia’s stateless population, this goal is still far off. Cheong and Baltazar (2021) found that stateless people were consistently “left behind” in all aspects. In order to model the interrelated barriers to maternal health care and birth registration among stateless women in Sabah, the authors have extended the “three delays” framework developed by Thaddeus and Maine (1994). According to Cheong and Baltazar’s research, stateless people’s exclusion from the system has a number of detrimental effects, such as raising health risks, making it more difficult for governments to keep an eye on population health, and prolonging intergenerational cycles of legal exclusion (Cheong & Baltazar, 2021). If the Malaysian government does not take legal action to address the statelessness issue, this situation will persist.

(3) *Denied occupational and safety health for workers*

When people without legal status were denied rights, a similar pattern emerged in the workplace, where they were stigmatised, subjected to numerous dangers, threats, and exploitation, received inadequate pay, lived in poverty, and was excluded from occupational health and safety programmes. Due to their status as non-citizens with no legal documentation, the government does not formally acknowledge the contributions made by migrant workers. The majority of migrant workers are undocumented, which puts them in danger and gives employers the ability to take advantage of them. As a result, their health and safety at their workplace were not covered (Hussin & Khoso, 2021). In a similar vein, this circumstance demonstrated that all degrees of statelessness are denied access to rights and benefits in the absence of legal authorisation.

(4) *Limitations in the international laws protecting human rights and children’s rights*

Examining each of the four articles chosen for this study’s purposes showed that the constraints placed on international legislation to safeguard children’s and human rights were the root cause of all problems and challenges encountered by stateless people. Due to their non-citizen status and lack of legal documentation, stateless children have limited access to education, as discussed in two articles (Loo et al., 2022; Selvakumaran, Hee, & Yusoff, 2020). Meanwhile, another article discussed the challenges stateless women faced in registering their birth and receiving maternity health care because they lacked legal documentation (Cheong & Baltazar, 2021). In a similar vein, adults who employ stateless people continue to deny their rights (Hussin & Khoso, 2021). This means that if stateless people’s rights are consistently denied on a national and international level, they will inevitably encounter difficulties in their lives.

(5) *Political and legal barriers in Malaysia*

Stateless people have lived in Malaysia for many centuries (Ramli, 2010), but until recently, the government did not take any affirmative action to address this issue effectively. For example, Malaysia is a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), where Article 28 clearly states that every child, regardless of circumstances, has the fundamental right to an education. However, stateless children in Malaysia were not allowed to receive an education in any public schools (Loo et al., 2022; Selvakumaran, Hee, & Yusoff, 2020). This situation shows that the international standard was being disregarded because Malaysia failed to address the issues of statelessness, refugees, and asylum seekers. As such, the inconsistency between Malaysian and international standards contributes to the complexity of the statelessness problem. Therefore, it is recommended that the nation ratify Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in order to make primary education free and mandatory for everyone, including stateless children.

(6) *Unfavourable outcomes and risks faced by stateless people*

According to the analysis done for this study, the four articles focus on the risks and unfavourable outcomes that stateless people must deal with. For the first word string on “stateless and education,” it was discovered that stateless children were kept out of school, which prevented them from receiving an education and kept them illiterate, unable to find employment, and imprisoned in poverty (Selvakumaran, Hee, & Yusoff, 2020). There will be numerous cycles of this. Furthermore, for the second-word string, “stateless and health,” the findings revealed that stateless people will become more vulnerable to health problems and ultimately become a financial burden on the nation if they do not have access to healthcare (Cheong & Baltazar, 2021). Moreover, those who are stateless will not be allowed to have their occupational and safety health benefits at work (Hussin & Khoso, 2021). Apart from that, stateless people continue to be stigmatised subject to stereotypes, dangers, threats, poverty, low pay, and exploitation by their employers (Hussin & Khoso, 2021).

Table 1: Summary of SLR analysis on “stateless” and “education” in Malaysia (2020-2022) based on key themes.

Articles	Year	Target audience	Main Themes					
			Education	Healthcare	Support	Negative sentiment	Law	Right to education
Loo, D.B., Lagason, L. Framing the Stateless Children in Sabah: An Examination Through Corpus Analysis. (2022). <i>International Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies</i> , 18 (2), pp. 201-226.	2022	Children	Restrictive access to education	Restrictive access to healthcare	Different agencies or key individuals have rendered help; this has been done based on the grounds of morality that aim to spur charitable actions.	Sentiment against the stateless children. The stateless population and children in Sabah have been perpetually stuck in statelessness.		
Selvakumaran, K., Hee, T.F., Yusoff, J.Z.M. A legal perspective on the right to education for stateless children in selected ASEAN countries. (2020). <i>Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities</i> , 28 (1), pp. 361-377. Cited 2 times.	2020	Children					International laws to protect human rights the rights of stateless children are still at stake.	Although the right to education is a fundamental universal right of all children as per Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the ASEAN countries are signatory members of the CRC, many stateless children within the region are still denied access to education.

Table 2: Summary of SLR analysis on “stateless” and “health” in Malaysia (2020-2022) based on key themes.

Articles	Year	Target audience	Main themes					
			Maternal Healthcare	Birth registration	Law	Political and legal barriers	Negative consequences	Occupational health and safety
Cheong, A.R., Baltazar, M.A.K. Too precarious to walk: an integrated “Three Delays” framework for modelling barriers to maternal health care and birth registration among stateless persons and irregular migrants in Malaysia. (2021). <i>Genus</i> , 77 (1), art. no. 18.	2021	Women	Maternal health care and birth registration	Birth registration	Risk of being “left behind” in United Nations member states’ efforts to “provide legal identity to all” as part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.	Political and legal barriers that stateless or migrant families confront while deciding to make institutional contact.	Including increased health risks, governments’ impaired ability to monitor population health, and the perpetuation of intergenerational cycles of legal exclusion.	
Hussin, H., Khoso, A. Migrant Workers in the Seaweed Sector in Sabah, Malaysia. (2021). <i>SAGE Open</i> , 11 (3).	2021	Adults						Occupational health and safety are prime concerns in seaweed farming, but no details were found concerning the health and safety of the migrant workers in the sector.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the SLR analysis regarding statelessness, education, and health have shown significant results. Two articles have undergone extensive thematic analysis about the rights to education and the rights to health for stateless children. In total, there are four articles. From these two articles on “stateless” and “education,” it is shown that stateless children are not eligible to pursue their education, even at the kindergarten level. They do not even have a chance to get an education, even though the right to education is a fundamental universal right of all children as per Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the ASEAN countries are signatory members of the CRC. Next, the articles “Stateless” and “Health” only discuss maternity health and workers’ health.

Moving to the articles on “stateless” and “health” it discusses maternity and workers’ health. The articles addressing maternity health highlight the challenges in registering stateless babies because of the absence of official documentation, perpetuating a cycle of denied healthcare rights and increased health risks. Additionally, the article that discussed migrant worker health and safety has shown that no details were found concerning the health and safety of the migrant workers in the sector. These findings revealed the need for further research on stateless people, particularly in critical areas like healthcare, which remain largely overlooked.

In conclusion, this study demonstrated that the issue of stateless people’s access to healthcare and education is not recent in the nation. However, the issue of healthcare and education for those without legal status has only recently become very contentious. Remarkably, there was still a dearth of research highlighting this problem in Malaysia that was listed in the Scopus database. This demonstrates the gaps in the body of knowledge regarding the issue of stateless people’s access to healthcare and education. Overall, this study concludes that the stateless people encounter many issues and challenges due to unclear national and international policies on healthcare and education rights. For Malaysia to be a prosperous and healthy country, this issue must be addressed immediately in accordance with MADANI principles and the SDGs.

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