**Health literacy and associated factors among adults**

**in Hue city, Vietnam**

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**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Health literacy (HL) has been concluded as a stronger predictor of an individual’s health status than income, employment status, education level and racial or ethnic group. In Vietnam, studies related to HL were limited.

#### Aims: To examine the HL levels and its related factors among adults in Hue city, Vietnam.

#### Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted in Hue, a City in the central of Vietnam, in 2015. A randomly selected sample of 1,005 adults aged between 18-60 years old, who lived in Hue during the past 6 months at the time we collected data, were examined via a face to face interview. HL was measured by questionnaire of HL survey in Asia (HLS-Asia-Q), which was modified from the HL survey in Europe questionnaire (HLS-EU-Q). We used multiple linear regression to identify factors significantly associated with general-HL (GEN-HL).

#### Results: The mean GEN-HL score was 28.7±7.6. The proportions of “inadequate” (GEN-HL: 0-25), “problematic” (GEN-HL: >25-33), “sufficient” (GEN-HL: >33-42) and “excellent” (GEN-HL: >42-50) in HL were 28.5%, 46.0%, 22.0% and 3.6%, respectively. Findings showed that the limited HL (GEN-HL≤33) were 64.7% in health care, 72.5% in disease prevention and 76.6% in health promotion. Factors associated with increased GEN-HL scores were higher education level; while unwatching medical TV program, poorer health status, or unable to pay for medical services were associated with decreased that scores.

**Conclusion:** The proportions of limited HL were high in health care, disease prevention and health promotion Findings of this study can be considered for local-level measurement comparisons of HL in Vietnam.

#### Key words: *health literacy, adults, risk factor, Vietnam, HLS-Asia-Q.*