Increasing Community Knowledge In Efforts To Prevent Covid-19 Disease In Rural Areas

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Abstract
COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. COVID-19 has greatly affected human life, especially in the health sector. It is important that in this very emergency situation, to maintain the health of the people themselves, they must pay attention to their own health. Thus, this prevention can be carried out in ways that have been recommended by the government, namely social distancing, washing hands, and using masks when traveling. The development of irresponsible issues can become an important problem in the COVID-19 outbreak control program in rural areas. The lack of knowledge and understanding of the population regarding valid information about the Corona virus agent can have a big social impact. This community service was carried out with training for health cadres in Silo Village, Silo District, attended by 30 cadres. The training material is in the form of Power Point slides, followed by training with simulations of correct recording and reporting regarding the early detection of COVID-19 events in the community. The results of this community service activity showed an increase in public knowledge about efforts to prevent transmission of COVID-19. This activity is effective for increasing village community knowledge in efforts to prevent COVID-19. It is hoped that the community can continue to carry out programs on preventing COVID-19.

Keywords: disease prevention, knowledge, rural community

Introduction
COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus which greatly affects human life, especially in the health sector (Garcia-Fernandez, et al., 2020). Personal resilience is very important in this case so that people must pay attention to their own health (Callow e. a., 2020). The government has advised the public to take preventive measures, namely social distancing, washing hands, using masks when traveling and to have received a booster vaccine to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus (Shahid, et al., 2020).

It is very important to pay attention to prevention efforts because COVID-19 can affect anyone, which has recently caused unrest at all levels of society (Klein, et al., 2021). Apart from that, the development of uncertain issues can also become a problem in the COVID-19 control program, especially in rural communities (Smith, et al., 2020). The population's lack of knowledge and understanding regarding valid information about the Corona virus agent can have a big impact (Shahid, et al., 2020).

Prevention efforts that can be carried out by rural communities are by carrying out various activities, one of which is outreach activities to provide scientific data and information to all
levels of society regarding Covid-19 (Callow e. a., 2020). Scientific, accurate and reliable knowledge and understanding will be able to help the public easily carry out the government's advice and directions to suppress the spread of COVID-19 in Jember Regency. On this basis, health education activities have been carried out to increase the knowledge of rural residents in Jember Regency so they can face and overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community service activities aim to provide a scientific overview that is easy to understand for the community at the hamlet and village level in anticipating the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The activities carried out included health education and giving leaflets.

**Identification of Problems**

There is a Covid-19 virus infection which is an infectious disease and can affect anyone, so prevention efforts are needed to break the chain of transmission of the disease. However, in rural communities there are still many people who do not know much about this disease. Due to the lack of public knowledge, it is important to carry out activities aimed at increasing public knowledge as a preventive measure against the transmission of the Covid-19 disease.

**Implementation Methodology**

Community service activities are carried out in village communities in the Silo 2 Community Health Center working area. This activity is carried out in February – March 2021. This activity is an event for the transfer of scientific knowledge to the community. The implementation of science and technology transfer is carried out in a simple way but the important thing is that it can be understood by the target audience so that the objectives of this activity can be achieved as fully as possible. By empowering the community, several stages are as follows:

**Preparation phase**

In the initial stage of preparation for implementing community service, the applicant applies for a community service permit to Bakesbangpol Jember Regency by bringing a letter of introduction from STIKES Dr Soebandi. After obtaining a permit letter from Bakesbangpol, the permit is then carried out at the Jember District Health Service and Silo 2 Community Health Center. Once approved, the proposer coordinates with the Head of Silo Village regarding plans to implement community service including issues raised in Silo Village, namely related to community knowledge about preventing COVID-19 and The solution to
overcome this problem is to provide health education. The coordination meeting discussed team organization, preparation of facilities and infrastructure, number of participants involved, as well as technical description and implementation of activities in accordance with health protocols. Apart from this, there is also a common perception regarding the intervention program that will be carried out in the planned community service program.

**Implementation Stage**

The service activity in the form of training for health workers in Silo Village, Silo District regarding Increasing Village Community Knowledge in Efforts to Prevent COVID-19 Disease was attended by 30 Cadres. The training material is in the form of Power Point slides with the title Tips for Successful Independent Isolation at Home without causing family clusters. Next, training was carried out with a simulation of correct recording and reporting regarding early detection of COVID-19 incidents in the community. In implementing Health Education, leaflets are provided so that the information provided during implementation can be read again at home whenever needed.

**Evaluation Stage**

Evaluation of community service activities is carried out starting from the activity preparation stage, activity implementation, and the results obtained from the activities that have been carried out. Evaluation of increasing community knowledge is carried out by providing a pretest before implementing education and conducting a posttest after implementing program interventions. Contains location and activity participants, materials and tools, methods of implementing activities, methods of data collection, processing and data analysis.

**Results and Discussion**

The Posyandu Cadre Training in Silo Village, Silo District, was attended by health cadres who will later become the closest educators to the community. During the activity, participants' enthusiasm was visible with various questions asked by the participants. Direct understanding and application adapted to field conditions is the result of the counseling and training provided. The results of this community service activity showed an increase in public knowledge about efforts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. It is hoped that this significant increase in knowledge can be followed by COVID-19 prevention behavior in the community.
The level of knowledge of Silo residents about COVID-19, especially how to self-isolate, most Silo residents do not know how to implement self-isolation, many Silo residents do not wear masks, do not wash their hands with soap and running water, and often gather with relatives or neighbors.

Knowledge comes from the word know which means to understand after seeing, witnessing, experiencing, listening. knowledge is something that is known through the results of knowing (AL-Rawajfah et al., 2021). Research conducted by Satriawan Ali et al wrote in the results of their research that a person's attitude is influenced by their knowledge, someone who has certain knowledge about information will be able to face and respond according to their knowledge (Satriawan Ali et al., 2022).

In research conducted by (Wang et al., 2020), Chinese citizens do not have good knowledge about COVID-19, this is a big PR for the Chinese government to emphasize increasing knowledge about Covid-19 health promotion in various ways and media adapted to the people in their environment, so that there are no misunderstandings and the spread of misinformation that causes excessive panic (Wang et al., 2020). Knowledge and attitudes are related to the level of panic and emotional disturbance among the community which can complicate efforts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 (Kutikuppala et al., 2021).

Compliance is influenced by people's knowledge and attitudes towards Covid-19, public knowledge is very important in overcoming the pandemic (Al-Hanawi et al., 2020). In another study, it was written that the majority of respondents showed negligence in preventing COVID-19, such as being reluctant to use masks, not gathering in crowds and staying indoors, and washing hands with soap and running water, which were the most frequently found knowledge gaps (Ferdous et al., 2020). In research conducted by Sari et al, they wrote that respondents had the assumption that those infected with COVID-19 should be taken to the police, not to the hospital, this happened because they often saw the phenomenon that in the area where they lived when they were infected with COVID-19 there would be many parties police (Sari et al., 2021).

The public shows ignorance about the main causes of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and its prevention, knowledge is an important factor in forming a person's attitude, there is a relationship between attitude and knowledge (Sari et al., 2021). The most important thing in
infectious diseases is to be careful regarding how they are transmitted, and the preventive measures that apply and implement them to be able to control the disease effectively with a low mortality rate, and to achieve all this is by increasing public knowledge about COVID-19 (Mahmood et al., 2020).

Other research states that Indonesian people have good knowledge about the transmission of COVID-19, but knowledge about the dangers of COVID-19 is not extensive, it needs to be identified based on demographic characteristics so that information and education is right on target (Pascawati & Satoto, 2020). Araban et al wrote that the practice of preventing Covid-19, namely using masks, washing hands with soap and running water, is not implemented regularly, interventions in the form of health education, continuous health promotion are needed to improve public safety (Araban et al., 2021).

From the facts and theories above, the researcher is of the opinion that efforts to introduce preventive transmission of COVID-19 by increasing knowledge cannot ignore and generalize the people in the region, so that the goal of providing health education is achieved, it is necessary to pay attention to who they are, where they live, as well as their culture, language, which they adhere to and are easy to understand. The use of appropriate and appropriate media plays an important role in conveying information with the hope that what is conveyed is in accordance with the objectives that have been created without any misperceptions. The public is expected to be able to be knowledgeable until their knowledge increases not only at the knowing stage but at the application level.

**Conclusion**
This activity is effective in increasing village community knowledge in efforts to prevent COVID-19.

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References


