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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES TOWARDS COVID-19 OF COMMUNITY IN BENGKULU PROVINCE, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Corona Virus (Covid-19) has spread throughout the world, including Indonesia and Bengkulu province. The high spread of cases raises fear and concern in the community, especially those who have not been exposed to clear information about Covid-19. Community understanding and supportive attitudes as well as good preventive measures play an important role in reducing the rate of spread in Bengkulu Province. Effectiveness in reducing the number of cases is very dependent on the cooperation and compliance of the whole community. The purpose of this study was to describe the knowledge, attitudes and practice of the people in Bengkulu Province regarding Covid-19. **Methods:** This research is a descriptive study with a total sample of 200 people taken by accidental sampling by distributing questionnaires in 10 districts / cities in Bengkulu Province. **Results:** Among 200 respondents, there were (86.5%) good knowledge, (52.0%) positive attitudes and (61.5%) respondents had good practice in preventing Covid-19. **Conclusion:** The public knowledge and understanding is important, as well as supportive attitudes in efforts to prevent transmission. **Recommendation:** It is necessary to disseminate clear and consistent information to all people in Bengkulu Province and its surrounding areas to break the chain of spreading Covid-19.

Keywords: Covid-19; Knowledge; Attitude; Practice

INTRODUCTION

Fear and concern about the transmission of Covid-19 raises various problems in community. The corona virus has spread throughout the world including Indonesia. Until now, the transmission of the corona virus continues to occur in the community. The efforts that have been made by the government to break the chain of the spread of the corona virus are by carrying out large-scale social restrictions and reducing group activities in large numbers. In Bengkulu Province itself, the efforts made by the local government are by making regional regulations on the prohibition of holding events that gather large numbers of people, such as weddings, music events in large numbers. Everything the government does will not have an impact on reducing the number of cases exposed to Covid-19 if it is not supported by the cooperation of all levels of community and compliance with regulations made by

the government.

Covid-19 transmission can occur through splashing saliva or holding objects in public places that have been affected by the corona virus. Anticipation that can be done to break the chain of the spread of the corona virus is to use masks, wash hands and keep your distance. When a person has contracted the corona virus it can cause problems in the respiratory system which show symptoms of shortness of breath, cough and high fever. The corona virus is a virus that is highly contagious, and can be transmitted to humans and can attack anyone such as babies, children, adults, the elderly, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers (Chen *et al.*, 2020). The risk of being exposed to society is quite high if it is not balanced with the delivery of clear information to the public in efforts to prevent Covid-19. The people who are maximum risk of infection are those who have close contact with Covid-

19 patients or nurses who have direct contact with sufferers (Liang, 2020).

Understanding and supportive attitudes and good practice from the community towards Covid-19 are very important to prevent the transmission of this disease. Infection prevention and control measures can be taken by complying with regulations made by the government (Reuben *et al.*, 2020). Also by wearing a mask, washing your hands and keeping your distance. Good knowledge will increase public understanding of Covid-19 which can be done through counseling, education and consistent information to the public (Delfina *et al.*, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

This research is a descriptive study, which aims to provide an overview of the knowledge, attitudes and actions of the people in Bengkulu Province regarding Covid-19. The population in this study were people in Bengkulu Province, with a total sample of 200 people who were taken by accidental sampling. The research instrument used a structured questionnaire consisting of three main parts designed to determine knowledge, attitudes and actions which are distributed directly to respondents while maintaining health protocols. The study was conducted from October to November 2020. The data analysis process was carried out using SPSS. The results of the research are presented descriptively in the form of frequency and percentage. This research has passed the ethical test stage from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bengkulu University.

RESULTS

The description of the characteristics respondents in this study can be seen in table 1. The average age of the respondents is 34 years, with a minimum age of 13 years and a maximum age of 77 from 200 respondents.

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents by Age

Variable	Mean	Median	SD	Min-Max	CI for Mean 95%
Age	34.11	29.00	12.985	13-77	30.48 - 34.11

Table 2 describes the frequency distribution of the characteristics of respondents based on gender, showing 50.5% of the respondents were male, 52.0% of respondents had high school education, and 38.5% of respondents worked as laborers

Table 2: Characteristics of Respondents Based on Gender, Education and Profession

Variable	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Man	101	50.5%
Women	99	49.5%
Education		
Primary School	30	15.0%
Junior High	28	14.0%
High school	104	52.0%
S1 / S2 / S3	38	19.0%
Profession		
Civil servants	15	7.7%
Labor	77	38.5%
Farmer	55	27.5%
IRT	1	0.5%
Lecture	48	25.0%
Not yet working	4	2.0%

Table 3 describes the frequency distribution of respondents who have good knowledge (86.5%), positive attitudes (52.0%) and respondents who have good practice about Covid-19 (61.5%).

Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice About Covid-19 in Bengkulu Province

Variable	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Knowledge		
Good	173	86.5%
Not good	27	13.5%
Attitude		
Positive	104	52.0%
Negative	96	48.0%
Practice		
Good	123	61.5%
Not good	77	38.5%

DISCUSSION

This research was conducted at all layers in Bengkulu province. The results showed that the knowledge of the people in Bengkulu province (86.5%) was good, directly proportional to the attitudes and practice of the community in preventing Covid-19, it was seen that 173 respondents had good knowledge, 104 respondents had positive attitudes and 123 respondents with good practice against the prevention of Covid-19. Good knowledge is followed by good attitudes and practice in preventing Covid-19. Most of the Bengkulu people already have good knowledge in preventing Covid-19 such as using masks, maintaining distance, and limiting themselves to doing activities outside the home. Likewise with a sufficiently supportive attitude in

complying with government recommendations in breaking the Covid-19 chain. Good knowledge will encourage positive attitudes (Peng *et al.*, 2020). The results of the same research conducted (Yanti *et al.*, 2020) showed that community cases were in the low-risk case category (85.33%), public knowledge (70%) was good, and community behavior showed that they had complied with health protocols during the pandemic Covid-19.

Research (Azlan *et al.*, 2020) in Malaysia also shows that good knowledge, attitudes and actions in taking preventive measures against Covid-19, such as avoiding crowds and washing hands. The results of the study (Yanti *et al.*, 2020) also show that the community has good knowledge of maintaining distance as a way to prevent Covid-19 transmission. Maintaining a distance can break the chain of transmission. According to Lewnard, & Lo, (2020) from the results of his researchit was seen that the only strategy against Covid-19 is to reduce the mixing of vulnerable people and reduce contact.

Knowledge is a prerequisite for building confidence in prevention, forming positive attitudes, and taking positive practice in preventing the transmission of Covid-19 (McEachan *et al.*, 2016). Most of human knowledge is obtained through education, people's experiences, mass media and the environment (Notoatmodjo, 2012). Knowledge of the Covid-19 disease is very important so as not to cause an increase in the number of cases of Covid-19. Knowledge of Covid-19 patients can be interpreted as the result of knowing from patients about the disease, understanding the disease, ways of prevention, treatment and complications (Mona, 2020). Knowledge plays an important role in determining complete behavior because knowledge will form trust which will then be applied in real life, which becomes the basis for decision making and determining behavior towards certain objects so that it will influence someone's behavior. Public knowledge, especially in preventing the transmission of the spread of Covid-19, is very useful in suppressing transmission of the virus (Law *et al.*, 2020). By having good knowledge of something, a person will have the ability to determine and make decisions on how he can deal with it (Purnamasari *et al.*, 2020). From some of these studies, it can be seen that knowledge is an important aspect that needs to be considered in solving problems, especially related to

Covid-19. The use of masks, maintaining distance, and washing hands frequently are recommended as ways to reduce transmission of Covid-19 around the world. The results of the study (Ahmed *et al.*, 2018) show that maintaining a distance of 3-6 feet (social distancing) can reduce the risk of person-to-person transmission and crowds must be avoided. Social distancing will limit the reproduction rate (R0) in the spread of the virus among communities (Aslam, 2020). In the social distancing phase, people are strongly advised to avoid traveling to densely populated areas because they have a high risk of infection (Suppawittaya *et al.*, 2020).

The results of this study indicate that most respondents have a positive attitude towards efforts to prevent the transmission of Covid-19, of the 200 respondents as many as 104 have a positive attitude towards preventing Covid-19, which illustrates that the people in Bengkulu province have a supportive attitude towards efforts to prevent Covid-19 transmission. By applying the behavior of wearing masks, maintaining distance, washing hands with soap or hands sanitizer, reducing activities outside the home the diseases can be controlled. Attitude is a closed response or tendency to do or not do something as a reaction to a stimulus or object (Azwar, 2011). A supportive attitude is formed from a good understanding of something and will be practiced in real life. The results of research (Salman *et al.*, 2020) showed good health professionals in Punjab province of Pakistan attitudes in the prevention of Covid-19 and research on students in China by (Peng *et al.*, 2020) also showed a positive attitude in preventing Covid-19. Research results (Zhang *et al.*, 2020) in Henan, China showed that 89% of health workers had sufficient knowledge about Covid-19 and 89.7% had taken the right actions about Covid-19. Apart from the level of knowledge, several risk factors including occupation, experience and job category influence the attitudes and actions of health workers regarding Covid-19.

The community needs more than just information, but also the need to understand the prevention efforts being taken to avoid the transmission of Covid-19. Many factors can influence people's attitudes and actions about Covid-19, one of which is that one's self-control will be important to achieve behavior change. According to Liu *et al.,* (2016) knowledge is important to influence changes in individual behavior obtained through learning. Good knowledge will encourage positive attitudes (Peng *et al.*, 2020), this is shown in

this study that the percentage of good knowledge is 173 (86.5%), followed by positive attitudes 104 (52.0%) and 123 (61.5%) with good action against Covid-19 prevention. Supported by research conducted in Uganda, which showed tht good knowledge, leads to good attitude (Ssebuufu *et al.*, 2020), just as in China, which has good knowledge, has a good attitude in preventing Covid-19 (Peng *et al.*, 2020).

The people in Bengkulu Province have good practice 61.5% against the prevention of Covid-19 transmission. Research (Paul *et al.*, 2020) in Bangladesh showed that overall results (33%) of participants showed good knowledge, 52.4% showed good attitudes and 44.8% good practices. Likewise, research by (Reuben *et al.*, 2020) in North-Central Nigeria shows the results that 99.5% of respondents have good knowledge (99.5%) about Covid-19 obtained through the internet / social media (55.7 %) and Television (27.5%). The majority of respondents (79.5%) had a positive attitude towards compliance with government regulations in infection prevention and control. About 92.7%, 96.4% and 82.3% practicing social distancing, improving personal hygiene and use

a face mask. The results of Reuben *et al.*, (2020) showed that there is a significant relationship between knowledge and attitudes towards Covid-19 preventive measures.

CONCLUSION

Good knowledge will influence the way people behave and practice in an effort to break the chain of spreading Covid-19. The more clearer the information received by the public the more will public understanding of prevention efforts against Covid-19. Understanding people's knowledge, attitudes and practice can help policy makers make informed decisions. The need for support from all communities in breaking the Covid-19 chain by following health protocols and complying with policies government policies.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to the institutional authority University of Bengkulu for completion of the work.

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