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Training for COVID-19 vaccination educator to counter vaccination misinformation in 10 cities in Indonesia

Ekorini Listiowati[a,1,*], Agus Samsudin[b,2], Mochamad Iqbal Nurmansyah[c,3], Husnan Nurjuman[d,4], Yuanita Wulandari[e,5], Waode Asmawati[f,6], Dirwan Suryo Soularto[g,1]

[a] *Faculty of Mediicne and Health Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*
[b] *Faculty of Economics, Humanity and Social Sciences, Universitas Aisyiyah Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*
[c] *Faculty of Health Sciences, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia*
[d] *Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa, Serang, Indonesia*
[e] *Faculty of Health Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia*
[f] *Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia*
[1] *ekorini_santosa@umy.ac.id*;* [2] *agus.samsudin443@gmail.com;* [3] *iqbalnurmansyah@uinjkt.ac.id;* [4] *husnan.nurjuman@untirta.ac.id;* [5] *yuanitawulandari@um-surabaya.ac.id;* [6] *waode.asmawati@umj.ac.id;* [7] *dirwansuryo@umy.ac.id*
**** Corresponding author***

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia has resulted in high morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. Providing COVID-19 vaccination is one step to minimize the impact of COVID-19. However, the interest of the people in Eastern Indonesia to get the COVID-19 vaccine is still low. This is due to misinformation regarding the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine and the need to mobilize outside the region. This community service aims to produce COVID-19 vaccine educators so they can properly educate the citizens regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. This Community Service is carried out in the form of COVID-19 vaccine educator training using pre-posttest score assessment and roleplay. Information and educational communication media in the form of flipcharts and auxiliary cards. The training was held for 8 hours in 1 day in Manado, North Sulawesi. 61 participants consisting of COVID-19 volunteers, religious leaders and community leaders have attended the training. Most participants showed an increased understanding of the COVID-19 vaccine and were able to roleplay in conducting COVID-19 vaccine education using flipcharts and aid cards.

Kata kunci
COVID-19
Edukator
Pelatihan
Relawan
Vaksin

Pelatihan bagi penyuluh vaksinasi COVID-19 untuk menangkal misinformasi vaksinasi di 10 kota di Indonesia. Pandemik COVID-19 di Indonesia mengakibatkan tingginya akan morbiditas dan mortalitas akibat COVID-19. Pemberian vaksinasi COVID-19 merupakan salah satu langkah untuk meminimalkan dampak dari COVID-19. Namun, minat masyarakat didaerah Indonesia Timur untuk mendapatkan vaksin-COVID-19 masih rendah. Hal tersebut dikarenakan adanya informasi yang salah terkait dampak vaksin COVID-19 serta kebutuhan untuk melakukan mobilisasi ke luar daerah. Pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan mencetak edukator vaksin COVID-19 sehingga dapat melakukan edukasi dengan baik ke masyarakat umum terkait vaksin COVID-19. Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat ini dilaksanakan dalam bentuk pelatihan edukator vaksin COVID-19 dengan menggunakan penilaian skor pre-posttest serta roleplay. Media edukasi yang digunakan merupakan lembar balik dan kartu bantu. Pelatihan dilaksanakan selama 8 jam dalam 1 hari di Manado, Sulawesi Utara. 61 Peserta yang terdiri dari relawan COVID-19, Tokoh Agama dan Tokoh Masyarakat telah mengikuti pelatihan. Mayoritas peserta menunjukkan peningkatan pemahaman terkait Vaksin COVID-19 dan mampu melakukan roleplay dalam melakukan edukasi vaksin COVID-19 menggunakan lembar balik dan kartu bantu.

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INTRODUCTION

By the end of July 2022, it is estimated that the total number of cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia will reach more than 6 million, causing more than 150 thousand people to die from the disease. The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on various sectors of life, including health, economy, social, and education (Gandasari & Dwidienawati, 2020; Malahayati et al., 2021; Murad et al., 2020; Sun et al., 2021). The Indonesian government launched three main strategies to end the COVID-19 pandemic, including implementing 3T (testing, tracing, and treatment), implementing restrictions on micro-scale community activities, and COVID-19 vaccination (Sutomo et al., 2021). In its implementation, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia cooperates with various parties, namely the health office, public and regional hospitals, private hospitals, community organizations, and the public, in carrying out the COVID-19 vaccination.

Good health in dealing with COVID-19 is part of realizing the achievement of good health and well-being in SDG's. Various actions have been taken to achieve good health in handling COVID-19 as a part of 3rd SDG's achievement (Jalaali, 2021). One of the steps taken by the government is the implementation of micro-scale community activities. The success of this action is very dependent on community compliance where obedient behavior in preventing COVID-19 has a relationship with the level of public knowledge regarding the transmission of COVID-19 (Soeratinoyo et al., 2021; Wonok et al., 2020). (Walsyukurniat, 2020) said that preventive measures by implementing health protocols and increasing endurance by eating a balanced nutritional diet, adequate rest time, regular exercise and avoiding stress are highly recommended. However, the formation of immunity against the COVID-19 virus will be more important (Maragakis & Kelen, 2021).

Providing the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the steps taken to achieve good health in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. Someone who has contracted COVID-19 and has received the COVID-19 vaccine will have milder symptoms and have a faster recovery time when compared to someone who has not received the COVID-19 vaccine (Djuang et al., 2022). Government programs related to the COVID-19 vaccine up to booster 1 are the right steps to achieve a healthy life in an effort to reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 disease (Tamara, 2021). However, the achievement of vaccination COVID-19 in easter Indonesia is still low. Therefore, the participation of various parties is needed to achieve the target of the COVID-19 program in Indonesia, especially in Eastern Indonesia.

COVID-19 vaccination is one of the steps chosen by the Indonesian government to end the COVID-19 pandemic. The Indonesian government is targeting around 181.5 million Indonesians to receive vaccines in the 1st quarter of 2022, but as of June 2022, this target has not been realized. 10 regencies/cities spread across 5 provinces, namely Kab. Nunukan (North Kalimantan), Kab. Banjar (South Kalimantan), Banjarmasin City (South Kalimantan), Kab. Murung (Central Kalimantan), Raya Kab. Gunung Mas (Central Kalimantan), Kab. Mempawah (West Kalimantan), Kab. Kubu Raya (West Kalimantan), Kab. Bolaang Mongondow Selatan (North Sulawesi), Kab. South Minahasa (North Sulawesi), and Kab. East Bolaang Mongondow (North Sulawesi) have primary vaccination coverage of less than 70% for the general population and/or the elderly population. According to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, the obstacles identified as the cause of the low achievement of COVID-19 vaccination include the availability of vaccine vials in districts/cities (Risalah, 2021). This is in line with the research result conducted by (Arifin & Anas, 2021), the low availability of vaccine vials causes low achievement of COVID-19 vaccination (Febriyanti et al., 2021). In addition to the limited availability of vaccine vials, socio-cultural characteristics and Indonesia's geographical conditions also have contributed to the low achievement of COVID-19 vaccination in Eastern Indonesia.

The COVID-19 vaccination program is still experiencing various challenges stemming from geographic location, infrastructure, workforce, cultural barriers, and hoaxes. This affects the implementation of public health behaviors, including willingness to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. It is undeniable that Indonesia's vast geographical area and socio-cultural differences among people may make it difficult for some areas to be reached by vaccination programs. In addition, the interest in vaccination that is not high enough for the COVID-19 vaccine is also a challenge in the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program. One of the causes of low public interest in the COVID-19 vaccine is misinformation regarding the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine (Kricorian et al., 2022). In their community service report, Sinar, Lubis, and Zein discovered that it is very easy for people to get incorrect information from social media. They suggested that the public get proper counseling and education regarding the COVID-19 vaccine (Sinar et al., 2021). Volunteers, religious leaders, and community leaders are key groups that are easy to access and trusted by the local community. Therefore, activities are needed to increase public understanding of the COVID-19 vaccine so that it can be used to increase the success of COVID-19 vaccination in the area. One of the steps that can be taken to increase the achievement and coverage of COVID-19 vaccination is to provide education to increase public understanding regarding the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.

Correct information through a communicative approach by utilizing media that is understandable to the public is an effort to eliminate public doubts and increase understanding of the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine. The presence of educators in the effort to convey this material to the public is important so that the messages about the COVID-19 vaccine can be conveyed to a wide audience. One of the important steps to achieving this is organizing COVID-19 vaccine educator training. This training aims to produce educators who can convey important messages to the public by using quality educational media that are easily understood by all groups. With the holding of training in each province, educators for the COVID-19 vaccine will be born. It is hoped that more educators who are involved in the community will increase the number of people willing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Achievement of vaccines from aforementioned 10 Regencies/Cities from 5 Provinces is still below the national primary vaccine target, which is below 70%. From the

results of discussions with representatives of partners, it was found that the reason for the low achievement of the vaccine was that the public's understanding of the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine was still low and the public received incorrect information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, which had an impact on interest in getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

METHOD

This community service method is in the form of training using information, education and communication (IEC) media that was held in Manado, North Sulawesi. The IEC media used are flipcharts (Figure 1) and aid cards (Figure 2) resulting from the collaboration of the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (JHCCP) in the Breakthrough Action for COVID-19 (BA for COVID-19) program, MPKU Muhammadiyah, and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, which is in the process of being funded by USAID.

Figure 1. Flipchart for COVID-19 vaccine education

Figure 2. Cue Card for COVID-19 education

This activity was attended by 58 participants consisting of COVID-19 volunteers, religious leaders, and community leaders from 10 districts/cities located in 5 provinces, namely Kab. Nunukan (North Kalimantan), Kab. Banjar (South Kalimantan), Banjarmasin City (South Kalimantan), Kab. Murung (Central Kalimantan), Raya Kab. Gunung Mas (Central Kalimantan), Kab. Mempawah (West Kalimantan), Kab. Kubu Raya (West Kalimantan), Kab. Bolaang Mongondow Selatan (North Sulawesi), Kab. South Minahasa (North Sulawesi), and Kab. East Bolaang Mongondow (North Sulawesi). The IEC material was delivered by 2 MPKU Muhammadiyah RCCE teams and 6 facilitators for 8 hours on December 15, 2022. This training process consisted of three stages: (1) participants were explained the mechanism for outreach to cadres; (2) introduction and use of flipcharts (CE kits) and cue cards; and (3) roleplay. Before the implementation of stage 1, to see an increase in understanding regarding the material presented, participants were required to take a pre-test before the activity took place and then do a post-test at the end of the activity. In addition, participants were asked to role-play carrying out the role of educator to see the participants' ability to use IEC Media as an educational medium.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This activity involved 61 participants from 10 districts or cities spread across 5 provinces (Table 1). At the beginning of the activity, the facilitator is in charge of giving instructions to the participants, including that they should be able to write their name and region of origin on a sticky note, which is then attached to the chest area to make it easier for fellow participants to recognize each other.

In stage 1 of the training, all participants were given classical information related to community outreach mechanisms for education. The participants were directed to identify groups in society that could be targeted for education on the COVID-19 vaccine. Elderly posyandu groups, recitals, schools, mosque youth groups, youth groups, and dasawisma groups are targets for education on the COVID-19 vaccine. In stage 2, participants were introduced to IEC media, namely flipcharts (CE Kits) and assist cards (Cue Cards). Participants are taught how to use both media. The facilitator demonstrates how to use the flipcharts (CE kits) and cue cards. At the end of this stage, the facilitator explores participants' understanding of how to use the educational media.

Table 1. Participants' characteristics

Characteristics	n	%
Sex		
Male	52	84.5
Female	9	15.5
Participants' area		
Banjar	6	10.3
Banjarmasin	5	8.6
Bolaang Mongondow Selatan	6	10.3
Bolaang Mongondow Timur	5	8.6
Gunung Mas	7	12.1
Kubu Raya	6	10.3
Mempawah	6	10.3
Minahasa Selatan	6	10.3
Murung Raya	6	10.3
Nunukan	5	8.6

In stage 3, participants were divided into 5 groups to be able to role-play how to use IEC media. The facilitator accompanies each group and directs group members to be able to role-play (Figure 3). Participants give each other feedback based on what has been practiced by other participants. facilitator feedback at the end of the roleplay. In the results of research conducted by Lianawati, it was found that the roleplay technique was able to improve students' communication skills (Lianawati, 2020). Roleplaying provides an opportunity for trainees to try their hand at acting as educators by educating the public using IEC flipcharts and aid cards.

Figure 3. Participants demonstrated the use of flipcharts in COVID-19 vaccination education

As evidenced by completing the activity pre-posttest, 58 of 61 participants completed the activity to the end.61% (36) of participants showed an increase in score, and 39% (n= 22) of participants showed a fixed score where the score is a "passed" score. In the initial process of filling out the post-test, there were 20% (n= 12) participants who showed a decrease of 1 score. Statistical test there was significant increase of the knowledge of participants after having a training (p: 0.009).

Table 2. Statistical test' result of pre-post test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Pre test – Post test	-.36207	1.02081	.13404	-.63048	-.09366	-2.701	57	.009

The training method is one of the most effective methods for increasing one's understanding and skills. Training on blood pressure measurement conducted by Marpaung and Zendarto in the elderly group showed an increase in efficacy in measuring blood pressure in the elderly (Marpaung & Zendrato, 2022). In this training, the elderly is invited to play

roles in the form of roles in opera. Creative, interactive, and hands-on training methods produce good outcomes. Moreover, another study in the context of religious settings showed that delivering knowledge form expert to Islamic Boarding School students was considered a significant effort to improve understanding of students related to the prevention of COVID-19 (Ikhsan et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

Community service activities in the form of COVID-19 vaccination educator training to increase the understanding of COVID-19 volunteers, religious leaders, and community leaders have gone well and achieved the intended goals. Almost all participants showed an increase in their understanding scores regarding the material and were able to use flipcharts and assist cards in carrying out education related to the COVID-19 vaccine.

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