

EXPERIENCE OF HEALTH CADRES IN TREATING COVID-19 IN GEMBONG VILLAGE IN THE WORKING AREA OF TAMANGEDE PUSKESMAS, KENDAL

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Abstrak

Data tentang pengalaman kader kesehatan dalam upaya penanggulangan pandemi COVID-19 sangat penting sebagai informasi bagi para pemangku kepentingan dalam membuat kebijakan. Sehingga dapat dirumuskan dalam penelitian ini bahwa Bagaimana pengalaman kader kesehatan dalam penanggulangan COVID-19 di masyarakat. Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengeksplor dan mengetahui peran, pandangan, faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi kinerja serta pengalaman kader kesehatan dalam penanggulangan COVID-19 dimasyarakat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data diambil atau diperoleh dengan wawancara mendalam dengan 6 orang partisipan yang telah memenuhi kriteria. Dalam penelitian ini disimpulkan bahwa peran kader dalam penanggulangan COVID-19 di desa Gembong, adalah sebagai penggerak masyarakat dalam menjalankan protocol. Serta penghubung antara masyarakat dengan NAKES. Selain itu kerjasama lintas sektor, pengetahuan dalam penanggulangan COVID-19, serta dukungan pemerintah menjadi faktor yang mempermudah kader kesehatan dalam penanggulangan COVID-19. Selanjutnya dari penelitian ini ditemukan pula hal-hal yang menghambat kader dalam penanggulangan COVID-19, diantaranya adalah stigma masyarakat, kepercayaan dari masyarakat yang kurang kepada kader, serta upaya bantuan desa yang masih kurang

Kata Kunci: COVID-19, Kader, Pengalaman

Abstract

Data on the experiences of health cadres in efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic is very important as information for stakeholders in making policies. So that it can be formulated in this study that How is the experience of health cadres in overcoming COVID-19 in society. The purpose of this study is to explore and find out the role, views, factors that affect the performance and experience of health cadres in overcoming COVID-19 in the community. This research uses qualitative methods. Data were taken or obtained by in-depth interviews with 6 participants who had met the criteria. In this study, it was concluded that the role of cadres in overcoming COVID-19 in Gembong village, is as a community mobilizer in carrying out protocols. As well as liaison between the community and health workers. In addition, cross-sectoral cooperation, knowledge in handling COVID-19, and government support are factors that make it easier for health cadres to overcome COVID-19. Furthermore, from this research, it was also found that things that hinder cadres in overcoming COVID-19, including community stigma, insufficient trust from the community to cadres, and village assistance efforts that are still lacking.

Keywords: Cadre, COVID-19, Experience

1. INTRODUCTION

The high incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic has an impact on the health care system which has the potential to increase risks to safety and health. indirectly the covid-19 pandemic has the potential to hamper access to optimal health services due to policies in place to minimize transmission of COVID-19. WHO announced COVID-19 as a pandemic on 12 March 2020 so

that all countries in the world increase their vigilance in preventing and minimizing the spread of COVID-19. (Wijaya, 2021).

Apart from the health sector, the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the social and economic sectors. In the economic field, COVID-19 has caused the world's economy to become chaotic, which has an impact on increasing unemployment and poverty (Aeni, 2021). In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19, efforts are needed from all components of society, especially the health sector. Health cadres have an important role in tackling COVID-19 and invite the community to comply with health protocols along with health workers. (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021)

Health cadres are an important part of improving public health status, especially during a pandemic. However, the literature discussing the role of cadres in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic is still limited. Data on the experience of health cadres in efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic is very important as information for stakeholders in making policies. Health cadres are expected to play a role as a source of public information about health protocols, because cadres are trusted by the community and trained by health workers regarding health problems that often arise in the community (Paksi & Yulian, 2022).

Implementation of the cadre's duties and functions often encounters several problems, most of which are related to the cadre's inability to carry out the five steps mentioned above. Most cadres are only able to do a few things, apart from that most cadres also do not have the knowledge and skills and cadres also do not play an active role in participating in posyandu (Yanti & Hasballah, 2016). In addition, the cadres are tasked with continuing the information conveyed by the puskesmas for the community and at the same time acting as a motivator in the community to participate in posyandu activities so that cadres need to continue to be encouraged and motivated so that the success of posyandu implementation can be achieved. Posyandu management is carried out by cadres. Where cadres play a role starting from the pioneering stage, connecting with institutions that support the implementation of Posyandu, as implementing planners and as coaches and as extension workers to motivate the community to participate in Posyandu activities in their area. Therefore, cadres can be said to be at the forefront of health services for the community through Posyandu (Simanjuntak, 2012).

2. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach because this study aims to examine the experiences of health cadres in handling COVID-19. The study population was health cadres in Gembong village, in the working area of the Tamangede Public

Health Center who met the criteria to be participants in the study. Sampling used purposive sampling by selecting participants with the criteria of health cadres in Gembong village working area of the Tamangede Health Center cadres who play an active role in tackling COVID-19 in the community, cadres who have been active for at least 3 years in the working area of the Tamangede Health Center. Data collection techniques using interviews that have been tested first and then tested for validity. The data analysis technique used is Thematic analysis.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Theme 1 : The role of cadres in overcoming COVID-19

3.1.1 Mobile community to overcome COVID-19

The results of the study show that cadres play a role as community mobilizers in tackling COVID-19. Cadres play a role in providing counseling regarding the recommendations for washing hands, wearing masks, and avoiding crowds. In addition, the cadres also assist the community in supervising residents affected by COVID-19 and monitoring so that residents continue to run the Prokes. The results of this study support the study (Ifroh et al., 2021). KEMENKES RI 2017 stated that cadres are considered agents of public health at the family level, so it is necessary to increase competence and motivation to support communities to be healthy and independent. Cadres take an active role in urging the public to wash their hands, wear masks and avoid crowds. Counseling on the prevention of COVID-19 is usually carried out by cadres to increase public awareness so that people know and are willing to implement health protocols. This is supported by the statements of the cadres below :

“Bantuan yang saya lakukan sebagai kader kesehatan itu membantu mengawasi, membantu mengawasi warga yang terkena COVID itu untuk tidak keluar rumah, membantu memantau juga supaya mereka tidak berkerumun.” (Mufidah, 45)

Biasanya itu saya memberi penyuluhan kepada masyarakat, kadang mendatangi dan menganjurkan cuci tangan, pakai masker terus Jangan berkerumun.” (Wati, 40)

Cadres play a role as community mobilizers by supervising residents affected by COVID-19. In addition, cadres also supervise the community to comply with health protocols. This is supported by previous studies which state that cadres act as community mobilizers to carry out health efforts such as visiting posyandu and carrying out clean and healthy livesb(Juliati, 2019). Cadres take an active role in urging people to wash their hands, wear masks and avoid crowds. Counseling on prevention of COVID-19 is usually carried out by cadres to increase public awareness so that people know and are willing to implement health protocols.

This is supported by previous research which states that health cadres urge the public to participate in preventing COVID-19. In addition, the cadres also supervise and give advice to the public if they do not comply with the health protocol (Siregar et al., 2021). Through the description above, it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous research on cadres as community mobilizers in tackling COVID-19.

3.1.2 As link between NAKES with community.

The results showed that the role of cadres was as a liaison between the community and NAKES. Cadres play a role in inviting and informing about the COVID-19 prevention activities that will be carried out by NAKES. This is supported by the statements of the cadres below :

“Kader ikut dalam mengundang warga dalam kegiatan Vaksinasi.” (Mufidah, 45)

The results of this study support previous research which stated that the role of cadres is as a link between the community and health workers (Jambormias et al., 2020). Cadres as community liaisons with NAKES have a role in the success of the health program held by NAKES. Cadres will receive information about public health programs that have been scheduled by NAKES. After that the cadre will inform the community so that people know and want to participate in these activities.

This is supported by previous studies which state that cadres are responsible for inviting the community to participate in health programs conducted by NAKES (Nilakesuma et al., 2021). Cadres who are members of the community make them intermediaries for NAKES to convey education about health.

In previous studies it was also stated that cadres are the link between the community and NAKES because of the presence of cadres around the community (Desriyanthi, 2020). In general, cadres cannot fully address health problems that are outside their realm. The cadre realm in question includes non-medical actions such as inviting the public to take part in health programs, health counseling and other non-medical actions. For this reason, Posyandu will usually involve the role of NAKES in terms of medical treatment and management.

This is supported by previous studies which state that often cadres cannot resolve situations in the field that are outside their realm. For this reason, Posyandu will usually involve related parties such as village midwives and health centers. Posyandu also works with the puskesmas to get treatment and other medical needs (Agus Susanto, 2017). In the description above, it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous studies regarding cadres as liaisons between the community and NAKES in handling COVID-19 in the community.

3.2 Theme 2 Factors that facilitate to handling COVID-19

3.2.1 Cross-sector cooperation

The results of the study show that the factor that facilitates the handling of COVID-19 is cross-sector collaboration. The government, health workers, cadres and the community are coordinating to help residents affected by COVID-19. This is evidenced by the cadres who stated :

“Kalau bantuan biasanya saling koordinasi ke Desa, kita laporkan atas nama ini, rumah ini sedang terkena COVID, kan tidak boleh kemana-mana. Selanjutnya akan koordinasi dengan Lurah agar dapat bantuan seperti sembako agar dapat memenuhi kehidupan sehari-hari untuk makan.” (Hayati, 42)

The results of research studies are in accordance with research studies (Karmin E, 2022) which states that it is impossible to control outbreaks to achieve the desired results if it does not involve cross-sector collaboration such as: Central government, local governments, related agencies, communities including community organizations. The participation of health cadres and NAKES is needed to check the condition of residents affected by COVID-19. In addition, cooperation with the community is needed to coordinate with cadres or NAKES when they find residents experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. This is supported by previous studies which state that the community will report to the related cadres or NAKES if residents in the surrounding environment experience symptoms of COVID-19 so that other residents do not get infected (Siregar et al., 2021).

In another study it was also stated that cross-agency collaboration was needed in efforts to tackle the spread of the corona virus from upstream to downstream by involving the role of the community. So that communication and dissemination of information about COVID-19 control and vaccination can be conveyed appropriately and effectively, two-way communication is used (Fadhlan, 2020). In this case the government plays a role in making policies and providing subsidized assistance to people who are being affected by COVID-19, especially residents who are conducting independent isolation. This is supported by studies which state that the food package assistance program for residents who are in self-isolation is a government effort to help fulfill nutrition during the independent isolation period. (Mufliha et al., 2021). In the framework of the COVID-19 control program, it is necessary to increase cross-sector cooperation.

This aims to break the chain of transmission and reduce the impact of COVID-19. This is supported by the statement (Notoatmodjo, 2012), that cooperation between sectors is important because the 5 public health problems are generated by various development sectors such as industry, transportation, and so on. So that health problems are the shared responsibility

of all parties (Karmin E, 2022). From the description above, it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous research regarding cross-sector collaboration as a factor that facilitates health cadres in handling COVID-19.

3.2.2 Knowledge about how to overcome COVID-19

From the research results, it was found that knowledge about handling COVID-19 can facilitate health cadres in handling COVID-19. In this case, cadres gain knowledge about COVID-19 countermeasures from the implementation of training and counseling from the puskesmas. This is supported by the statement below.

“Kegiatan pernah dilakukan didesa menghandirkan narasumber dari puskesmas, pelaksanaan dan pelatihannya yaitu melibatkan puskesmas, dinas kesehatan tentang bahaya COVID dan penanggulangannya.” (Wati, 40)

“Kita mendapatkan jadwal khusus untuk ke puskesmas hanya beberapa perwakilan, setiap perwakilan nanti kita akan memberitahu ke yang lainnya mengenai pencegahan COVID.” (Istiqomah, 36)

The results of this study support previous studies which stated that cadres need to receive training in the form of education to increase capacity, competence, skills, and motivation to support healthy and independent communities. (Ifroh et al., 2021). After being given training and counseling, the level of knowledge of cadres regarding the handling of COVID-19 will increase. Previous studies have shown that there are significant differences in the knowledge of cadres regarding the prevention of COVID-19 before and after the training is carried out (Rosidin et al., 2019).

This training activity will later provide cadres with provisions that will later be useful for cadres and those around them to tackle COVID-19. This education is very important for cadres because later cadres will use it as a guide in dealing with health problems that arise in the community, especially COVID-19. This is supported by previous studies which state that with the training activities provided, cadres will have the provision of useful knowledge and skills for themselves, their families and the community, to be able to comply with health protocols, so that they can participate in handling COVID-19. (Jafar & Wijayanti, 2021). From the description above, it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous research studies regarding the handling of COVID-19 which stated that knowledge is a factor that makes it easier for health cadres in handling COVID-19.

3.3 Support form community, family, and goverment

From the research, it was found that the support from the government, family and community made it easier to deal with COVID-19. In tackling COVID-19, family cadres, the community and the government work together and support one another. This is supported by the statement of cadres who stated :

“Karena kebetulan suami juga perangkat desa, dan dari pihak desa juga ada SATGAS Covid, jadi saling mendukung anatara saya sebagai kader dan suami dari perangkat desa.” (Istiqomah, 36)

The results of this study support previous studies which stated that support is needed involving the government, related agencies, and the community so that epidemic control is optimal. (Karmin E, 2022). In this case the family plays a role in providing information regarding health protocols, namely by looking after each other and reminding family members to always be vigilant about the spread of COVID-19 and always implement health protocols. This is supported by previous studies, it was stated that family support also has an important role in efforts to tackle COVID-19, families can provide support to their family members and instill the habit of washing hands, wearing masks, and a culture of clean and healthy living (Alvita et al., 2021).

Community support in this case is very much needed so that the goals of tackling COVID-19 can be achieved. This was supported in previous studies, which stated that the community is responsible for its family members. This responsibility will affect habits and mindsets to set an example for each family member to behave even better by teaching family members health protocols to avoid Covid-19 (Siregar et al., 2021).

From the description above, it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous studies regarding support from the government, families, and communities that can facilitate health cadres in handling COVID-19

3.4 Factors that hoinding the overcome of COVID-19

3.4.1 Community stigma about COVID-19

From the results of the study it can be concluded that community stigma can hinder the handling of COVID-19. This is indicated by the large number of people who are reluctant to take vaccines and are reluctant to comply with health protocols. This is supported by the statement below.

“Banyak duka nya dari pada suka nya, duka nya itu dari penanggulangan covid, misalnya seperti vaksinasi, nanti ada presepsi dari masyarakat itu ada yang nanti habis di vaksin jadi sakit, lalu ada juga kasusnya yang di vaksin meninggal itu yang sulit, sehingga ketika jadwal vaksin banyak masyarakat yang menolak apalagi yang sudah lanjut usia.” (Istiqomah, 36)

“Kurangnya kesadaran masyarakat mengenai bahaya COVID dan .masyarakat yang

ngeyel dengan COVID.” (Wati, 40)

“Masyarakat nya pada ngeyel disuruh memakai masker.” (Arum, 37)

The results of this study support previous studies, it was stated that there was an attitude of mistrust in the community towards the existence of Covid-19, even disbelief if a person or himself was confirmed positive for Covid-19 but still had fear. The existence of distrust arises due to a lack of knowledge regarding the ways, symptoms and effects of the transmission of the Covid-19 disease.

This is what can trigger the magnitude of the impact on stigmatizing people, resulting in serious health problems and difficulties in controlling disease outbreaks where a person is more reluctant to live a healthy life (Hikmah & Agustang, 2022). Stigma has the potential to create a negative motivator in at-risk communities by not following health protocols and even hiding their illness, thus creating barriers to contact tracing which has the potential to increase the death rate of COVID-19. As well as lack of public awareness, it will greatly hinder the handling of COVID-19. This is supported by previous research studies which stated that until now public awareness in preventing Covid-19 has not changed, usually people do not understand health protocols, when they are exposed to an illness, only then will people be aware of the importance of a culture of healthy living which must start from their own environment. (Wonok, 2020).

From the description above, it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous studies which stated that community stigma can hinder the response to COVID-19.

3.5 The lack of community trust in cadres

In addition, trust also has an impact that hinders the handling of COVID-19. Many cadres received unfair treatment in the form of rejection and discrimination from the community. This is supported by the statements of the cadres below.

“Enggak ada sukanya kalau menanggulangi COVID dukanya yang banyak dukanya ya selain saya karena dianggap tidak terlalu penting ke masyarakat. Jadi. Banyak masyarakat itu menyepelkan terus Ya ikut terpapar karena kita ikut partisipasi.” (Mufidah, 45)

“Pernah pak, banyak kesulitannya apa lagi saya kalau ke rumah warga itu kadang warga itu menolak. Karena merasa saya kan hanya kader sih. Bukan apa begitu jadi mereka enggak terlalu peduli dengan saya.” (Mufidah, 45)

The results of this study support previous studies which stated that the concerns of cadres in carrying out health programs were due to the community. This is in accordance with research results that the community lacks trust in health cadres (Ohoiulun et al., 2021). In this study there were also no participants who did have a background in health education which is also one of the reasons for the lack of public trust in cadres. This is supported by previous research which

states that community rejection also occurs due to the educational background of cadres who are not from the health sector (Landri et al., 2021). From the description above it can be concluded that the results of this study support previous studies if the lack of public trust in cadres can hinder health cadres in handling COVID-19.

3.6 Less village relief effort

On the other hand, village assistance efforts that are still lacking also play a role in hampering the handling of COVID-19. Because the community felt that there was not enough assistance, this resulted in its own obstacles in hampering the handling of COVID-19. This is supported by the statements of the participants below

Harapannya itu kalau yang kena COVID itu. Dari pihak desa juga membantu, kan Biasanya dibantu hanya. Seminggu untuk akomodasi dan lain lain yang kita harapkan kan isolasi 2 Minggu pak kalau bisa dibantu selama 2 Minggu itu kita di diberikan akomodasi.” (Mufidah, 45)

Based on research that has been done previously, it shows the impact of Direct Cash Assistance on people's welfare. According to the community, as BLT recipients, they considered that the funds could only be used to alleviate problems with daily needs. Taking this into account, people feel that they are not prosperous if they only rely on funds distributed by the government, namely BLT. In addition, errors often occur in the distribution of BLT to people who do not meet the requirements to receive it (Banawa et al., 2021).

In addition, this was compounded by uneven assistance due to inaccurate data collection and confusion from the community due to a lack of socialization regarding this matter. This is supported by previous studies which stated that the provision of social assistance in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a lot of controversy.” The large number of policies issued related to the type of social assistance caused chaos and confusion among the people regarding the assistance they could receive, data collection that was not on target and the timeframe for distributing assistance was not simultaneous (Mufida, 2020).

From the description above, it can be concluded that this research study supports previous studies where inadequate village assistance efforts could hinder the handling of COVID-19.

4. CLOSING

4.1 Conclusion

From the results of the study it can be concluded that the role of cadres in tackling COVID-19 in Gembong village is as a community mobilizer to tackle COVID-19. In addition, cadres also act as a liaison between the community and health workers. Furthermore, factors that can make it easier for cadres in handling COVID-19 include cross-sector collaboration, knowledge about

COVID-19 countermeasures and support from the government, family and community. In addition, there are also things that hinder the handling of COVID-19 including the community's stigma regarding COVID-19, the lack of public trust in cadres and village assistance efforts that are still lacking.

4.2 Sugestion

The researcher's suggestion for the puskesmas, the researcher hopes that the puskesmas can use the results of this research as input to support and optimize cadres in handling COVID-19 in the community. Researchers suggest for cadres, researchers hope that they will receive more training and knowledge regarding handling COVID-19. So that the handling of COVID-19 in the community is more optimal. Researchers' suggestions for the community, researchers hope that the results of this research can increase public awareness about the dangers of COVID-19 and also the community will be more supportive of cadres in handling COVID-19.

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