

Prevent Stunting Through Socialization Of The Importance Of Immunization To Achieve Universal Child Immunization (UCI)

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Abstract.

Immunization program is an important step to provide protection against certain diseases, especially for groups that are vulnerable to infection, such as infants, toddlers, children, women of childbearing age, and pregnant women. Through this program, Indonesia has successfully gained recognition as free from smallpox by WHO since 1974. In Indonesia, every infant (aged 0-11 months) is required to receive complete basic immunization, which includes 1 dose of Hepatitis B, 1 dose of BCG, 3 doses of DPT-HB-Hib, 4 doses of polio, and 1 dose of measles. One indicator of the success of this immunization program is the achievement of Universal Child Immunization (UCI), which is a condition where all infants (under one year of age) receive complete basic immunization. However, data shows that parental awareness of the importance of immunization is still low, so that many children end up not getting immunized. For this reason, it is necessary to carry out activities in an effort to provide awareness and understanding of the importance of immunization through socialization activities. The socialization activity was carried out in Pamekaran Village, Rancakalong District, Sumedang Regency, West Java with 34 participants consisting of mothers of toddlers. The method used was socialization accompanied by measuring initial knowledge (pre-test) and post-test about the importance of immunization. The results of the activity had an impact, namely there was an increase in knowledge of participants with a good category about the importance of immunization, namely from 12 people or 35.2 percent (pre-test) to 27 out of 34 participants or 79.4 percent. In other words, there was an increase in the number of participants with good knowledge by 44.2 percent. Conclusion: the socialization activity had a positive impact and resulted in an increase in knowledge of Pamekaran Village residents about the importance of immunization

Keywords: *Amunization; universal child immunization; socialization and community services.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Immunization is a way to increase a person's immunity to certain diseases, so that if exposed to the disease, the individual will not become seriously ill or will only experience mild symptoms. Some infectious diseases that can be prevented through immunization (PD3I) include tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, pertussis, measles, polio, meningitis, and pneumonia [1]. Children who have been immunized will be protected from various dangerous diseases that can cause disability or even death. Immunization is one of the most effective and cost-efficient health interventions, because it can prevent and reduce morbidity, disability, and death due to PD3I, which is estimated to cause 2 to 3 million deaths each year [2] [3]. The immunization program aims to provide protection against infectious diseases, especially in vulnerable groups such as infants, toddlers, children, women of childbearing age, and pregnant women. Through this program, Indonesia has been free from smallpox since 1974 based on WHO recognition [13]. In Indonesia, every baby (aged 0-11 months) is required to receive complete basic immunization, which includes 1 dose of Hepatitis B, 1 dose of BCG, 3 doses of DPT-HB-Hib, 4 doses of polio, and 1 dose of measles [4][5].

Based on the Indonesian Health Profile (2016), measles immunization is a special concern, in accordance with Indonesia's commitment to eliminate measles by 2020 with a target of at least 95% immunization coverage in all regions [6]. Measles is one of the main causes of death in toddlers. One indicator of the success of the immunization program is the achievement of Universal Child Immunization (UCI), namely the achievement of complete basic immunization in all infants under one year old [7][8]. However, the low achievement of UCI is caused by various factors, such as limited access to immunization services, high dropout rates, and other problems, such as remote service locations, irregular immunization

schedules, lack of medical personnel, unavailability of immunization books, and lack of public understanding of the benefits, timing of immunization, and symptoms of immunization [9][10]. Cultural factors, education, and socio-economic conditions also influence the low achievement of UCI in villages or sub-districts [11][12]. Considering how important immunization plays as an effort to prevent the younger generation in the future from contracting various diseases at an early age, the UKI FK PkM team conducted a socialization activity on the importance of immunization in Pamekaran Village, Rancakalong District, Sumedang Regency, West Java.

II. METHODS

This community service method is carried out through counseling with the theme "Socialization of the Importance of Immunization to Achieve Universal Child Immunization (UCI)". This activity includes direct lectures and the distribution of leaflets containing interesting materials and images, followed by a question-and-answer session regarding immunization. Topics discussed include the importance of immunization, immunization schedules, and the purpose of immunization in children to reduce morbidity, disability, and death due to diseases that can be prevented by immunization. In addition, data collection was carried out on mothers regarding the completeness of their children's immunizations, which allows early detection related to immunization and encourages mothers to provide immunizations to their children.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This community service activity was carried out in several stages, starting with providing counseling on immunization, including the importance of immunization, the immunization schedule, and its purpose in reducing morbidity, disability, and mortality due to diseases that can be prevented by immunization. The socialization of Universal Child Immunization (UCI) was carried out in September 2023, at the Merpati V Posyandu, Pamekaran Village, Rancakalong District, Sumedang Regency, West Java. Based on observations during the activity, the results obtained included increased public knowledge and understanding of the importance of immunization, its benefits, goals, and the child immunization schedule, which were previously hampered by a lack of information or knowledge and the distance of homes that were quite far from health facilities.



Fig 1. Implementation of Immunization Socialization in Pamekaran Village

The evaluation stages of the success of the activity are seen from the analysis of the pre-test and post-test questionnaires as in the following Table 1:

Table 1. Results of the Analysis of the Pre-test and Post-test Questionnaires

Knowledge Category	Pre-test		Post Test	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Good	12	35.2	27	79.4
Enough	7	20.6	6	17.7
Less	15	44.2	1	2.9
Total	34	100	34	100

From Table 1 it can be seen that the number of participants who had good knowledge about immunization before the socialization (pre-test) was 12 out of 24 participants or 35.2 percent, while after participating in the socialization the number of participants with good knowledge category increased to 27 out of 34 participants or 79.4 percent. Of course this increase is very significant with an increase percentage of 44.2 percent. So it can be stated that the socialization activity about the importance of immunization to mothers of toddlers in Pamekaran Village has a good impact. However from the data it is still seen that there is 1 participant who still has less knowledge about the importance of immunization, which after being confirmed that the participant did not participate optimally in the activity due to being unfit or not feeling well. The socialization activity regarding Universal Child Immunization (UCI) in Pamekaran Village, Sumedang Regency went very well.

This can be seen from the enthusiasm of mothers who have babies, who attended in large numbers during the event. Many of them asked questions, showing interest and curiosity about the material presented. Previously, mothers' knowledge about immunization was still considered commonplace, but after attending this counseling, they became more aware of the importance of immunization, its implementation schedule, and the purpose of immunization in children. Thus, mothers are increasingly aware that immunization can help reduce morbidity, disability, and death due to diseases that can be prevented through immunization. The immunization program is one of the efforts to provide protection to the community from certain diseases. This program is aimed at groups that are vulnerable to infection with infectious diseases, such as infants, toddlers, children, women of childbearing age, and pregnant women [14][15]. Through the immunization program, Indonesia has been declared free from smallpox by WHO since 1974. In Indonesia, every baby (aged 0–11 months) is required to receive complete basic immunization. This immunization includes 1 dose of Hepatitis B, 1 dose of BCG, 3 doses of DPT-HB-Hib, 4 doses of polio, and 1 dose of measles [16].

IV. CONCLUSION

The socialization activities on the importance of immunization conducted in Pamekaran Village provided increased knowledge and awareness for parents, especially mothers of toddlers. This can be proven by the increase in the number of participants with a good knowledge category about immunization after the socialization compared to before the socialization, with an increase percentage of 44.2 percent.

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