

The Importance of the Covid-19 Vaccination in Children Ages 6-11 Years at Primary School 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency

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Abstract. *Children aged 6 to 12 years are the age of children entering elementary school. Children are one of the age groups that are vulnerable to being infected with Covid-19, therefore, to break the chain of transmission of the Covid-19 virus, children must be equipped with the knowledge of how important it is to vaccinate against COVID-19. This is the goal of community service activities, namely to increase children's knowledge about the importance of vaccinating covid-19 and also being able to understand the impact of not vaccinating covid-19. The method used is education using Power Point, Banner and Leaflet. The results achieved with this activity, SDN 4 Limboto, were very supportive in carrying out this activity, a series of activities were carried out to achieve good results because 35 children participated in the counseling. Conclusion: in breaking the chain of transmission of covid-19, children must first be educated about the importance of vaccination and the impact of not vaccinating against covid-19. This also requires the role of the parents and also the school.*

Keywords: *Devotion, The Importance of Vaccination, Children Aged 6-11 Years, Covid-19*

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INTRODUCTION

Since the end of 2019, the world has been shocked by the emergence of a new disease that has similarities to Pneumonia. This disease is known as Covid-19 which is caused by a Corona Virus called SARS-Cov 2 (WHO, 2019). Covid-19 first appeared in December 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei, China. This virus suddenly shocked the world because the process of infecting the human body which causes death to take place quickly because it attacks the respiratory system which causes a person to experience respiratory problems and cause death.

Throughout this epidemic, the government must work to limit the spread of Covid 19, while also focusing on measures to minimize infant mortality. The government is responsible for providing child health services in accordance with applicable government health legislation, Technical Standards for Meeting Basic Service Quality relating to minimal service standards in the health sector, as well as other applicable NSPKs. Toddler health services include growth and development monitoring, administration of basic and advanced immunizations, vitamin A capsules, and management of unwell toddlers as needed, as well as disease prevention measures such as mass deworming medication distribution and triple elimination.

Children aged 0-18 years account for one in every nine confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia, according to the Indonesian Pediatrician Association (IDAI). On November 29, 2020, Indonesian records reveal that the proportion of newborn mortality due by Covid-19 is 3.2 percent, the highest in Asia Pacific at the time. Children who are asymptomatic or exhibit only mild symptoms have the potential to transfer the virus to those in their near vicinity. While child

mortality due to Covid-19 is lower in Indonesia than in other age groups, it is higher than in the United States and India, the two countries with the highest overall number of Covid-19 cases (Laxminarayan et al., 2020). In the United States, children account for barely 0.21 percent of all corona deaths (Hawkes & Good, 2022). Meanwhile, children under the age of 18 contribute for fewer than 1% of corona-related fatalities in India. Children aged 3-6 years old make up 1.49 percent of all Covid 19 cases in Gorontalo Province.

Physical segregation and large-scale population restraint tactics (PSBB) have an influence on health care accessibility. This may result in a disruption of health services, notably those provided to children, which may result in an increase in morbidity and death. As a result, actions must be taken to combine the requirement to manage Covid 19 with the need to maintain important health services for children (Holmes et al., 2020). The Covid-19 pandemic has indeed had a broad impact on children's development in terms of health (physical and mental), social aspects and also education (Benner & Mistry, 2020; de Figueiredo et al., 2021). Indonesia is a country with a large number of children and children are the future human capital assets of a country. Even though based on data from the Covid-19 task force page, currently Covid-19 cases have decreased, but in June 2021, when the Covid-19 infection rate was quite high, it showed that the number of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia for the child group was quite large, reaching 2.9% for ages 0-5 years and 10% for ages 6-18 years.

By not specifying a time when the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia and also globally will end, the health service system must be able to anticipate the possibility of increasing Covid-19 cases in children, including the need for vaccinations for children. Meanwhile, with the gradual opening of face-to-face schools, children also have the potential to become carriers of the Covid-19 virus after doing activities outside the home and transmitting it to others. This is a concern and must be a common concern. In this regard, the Indonesian government has started administering the Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 6-11 years. The provision of vaccines for children aged 6-11 years aims to protect them from exposure to Covid-19 which is important because apart from benefiting themselves (Yang et al., 2021). it is also beneficial for others indirectly by receiving the vaccine, it has helped protect the immediate environment from the Covid-19 virus. According to the Covid-19 advocacy team, The Executive Board of the Indonesian Doctors Association (IDI) said that this vaccine is safe and can stimulate immunity against Covid-19.

Based on the results of clinical trials in the age group of 6-11 years in China that have been published in scientific journals and have been carefully studied by BPOM and ITAGI, side effects or post-immunization co-occurrence (AEFI) are very rare and harmless. Some side effects such as pain at the injection site, swelling, fever, dizziness to lethargy will disappear in one to two days. So the Covid-19 vaccine is safe for children aged 6-11 years. This is also why we are interested in socializing efforts to break the cycle of transmission of Covid-19, particularly among children aged 6-11 years, by building a counseling topic around the critical nature of Covid-19 immunization in this age range. This immunization is critical because children are the weakest link in the chain of herd immunity. Because these youngsters are protected by vaccination, their grandparents, who are close to the individual and are elderly, are also protected. Additionally, it is significantly safer if the grandparents have been vaccinated.

Our outreach initiatives constitute a kind of community service, which is one manifestation of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, as stated in Article 1 paragraph 9 of Law No. 12 of 2012, which refers to universities' dedication to education, research, and service to the community. Community service permits the theoretical knowledge obtained in college to be used and developed in the greater community's life (Germain & Knight, 2021). As previously stated, we are extremely interested in participating in health education with the goal of breaking the chain of transmission of the Corona virus, particularly among children aged 6-11 years, by developing a health education theme on the importance of covid-19 vaccination for children aged 6-11. years at SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency, in an effort to break the chain of transmission of the Corona virus among children aged 6-11 years. The objective of this health education is to raise children's

knowledge of the critical nature of COVID-19 vaccination and the consequences associated with non-immunization against COVID-19.

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METHODS

The following are several stages of the implementation mechanism related to community service, including; (1) Division of community service groups; (2) Consultation with the principal of SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency and supervisors for clinical interest stations; (3) Tools and materials for the preparation of community service activities. Preparation and health education for children aged 6-11 years includes; (1) Development of health education tools for presentation; (2) Implementation processes are developed in the form of health education approaches; (3) Providing information to parents and caregivers about the relevance of covid-19 immunization for children aged 6-11 years at SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency; (4) Q&A Session; (5) documentation of activities.

Implementation

Lecturers and students will conduct community service activities in the form of counseling about the need of covid-19 vaccination for children aged 6-11 years at SDN 4 Limboto, Gorontalo Regency. The percentage technique is used to conduct activities in this activity, along with power points, pamphlets, lectures, and conversations, as well as documentation, supplies, and the attached attendance list.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This service is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The processes involved in getting the desired outcomes are detailed in detail below. They include a succession of implementation techniques with many adjustments to account for field circumstances. The lecturer met with the principal and staff of SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency to discuss preparation for service students' placement and information that students should know about the circumstances and conditions of the location where they would be counseling. Stages of executing outreach operations to educate children aged 6-11 years about the necessity of covid-19 vaccine at SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency. The SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency is extremely supportive of this activity and expresses appreciation to Muhammadiyah University of Gorontalo, particularly the instructors of the Nursing Study program, for collaborating with Community Service activities in carrying out this activity. it is beneficial since the youngsters were counseled in groups of up to ten and in line with the report on the evidence of the activities conducted. Additionally, the Principal of SDN 4 Limboto Gorontalo Regency expects that this outreach exercise will raise awareness among children about the necessity of COVID-19 immunization and the consequences associated with non-vaccination.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The following can be concluded from the series of community service activities conducted by the Nursing Profession Lecturer at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Muhammadiyah Gorontalo; (1) Increased awareness among children about the importance of Covid-19 vaccination for children aged 6-11 years at SDN 4 Limboto, Gorontalo Regency; (2) Community service benefits both children and the campus. It is desired that all teachers in the Nursing Profession at the Muhammadiyah University of Gorontalo will engage in similar activities and give their opinions to benefit all youngsters. And it can raise children's awareness of the critical nature of Covid-19 vaccine in order to halt the spread of the disease in Indonesia, particularly in the Gorontalo area.

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