

The Role of Parents on the Care of Tolls during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Dewi Modjo¹, Andi Akifa Sudirman¹, Riskawaty Nuna², Mutya Datungsolang², Suparjo A. Nasibu²

¹Lecturer of the Department of Nursing, Muhammadiyah University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

²Nurse Profession Student, Muhammadiyah University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

Abstract. *Toddlers are one of the age groups that are vulnerable to being infected with Covid-19, a disease caused by the SARS-Cov 2 Virus which has become a global pandemic since March 2020. The age limit for toddlers is 1-3 years (toddlers) and 3-5 years (pre-school). Therefore, the care of toddlers during the COVID-19 pandemic must be adjusted to the health protocols set by the government to break the chain of transmission. This is the goal of community service activities, namely to increase parents' knowledge by conducting counseling on how "The Role of Parents in Caring for Toddlers During the Covid 19 Pandemic". The method used is education using Power Points, Banners and Leaflets about caring for toddlers during the Covid 19 pandemic. The results of this activity achieved good results because as many as 21 mothers of toddlers were willing to take part in counseling and willing to help implement clean and healthy living behaviors and ways prevent and overcome the spread of Covid 19. Conclusion: a more intensive relationship between parents and their children, which has an impact on the growth and development of children, including how to treat children under five years of age during the Covid 19 pandemic. So that, Parents are the main protectors for their children's health.*

Keywords: Covid-19, The Role of Parents, Toddler Care

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INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 has been declared a world pandemic by WHO in 2020 and has also been declared the Head of the National Disaster Management Agency through decision No. 9 A of 2020, extended through decision No. 13 A of 2020 as a Status of Certain Emergency Disasters due to Corona Virus Disease Outbreaks in Indonesia. Furthermore, due to the increase in cases and the wider spread between regions, the government finally issued Government Regulation Number 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale National Restrictions in the Context of Accelerating the Handling of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) and Presidential Decree Number 11 of 2020 which stipulates Status Public Health Emergency which was later updated by Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Non-Natural Disasters for the Spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) as a National Disaster (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020).

During this pandemic, the government must prevent the spread of Covid 19 on the other hand to continue to pay attention to efforts to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate.

The government has the responsibility to provide child health services as stipulated in government health regulations regarding child health efforts, Technical Standards for Fulfilling Basic Service Quality on minimum service standards in the health sector and other related NSPKs. Health services for toddlers include monitoring growth, development, providing basic and advanced immunizations, vitamin A capsules and management of sick toddlers if needed, as well as disease prevention programs, such as mass administration of deworming drugs and triple elimination (Clements et al., 2008; Welch et al., 2016)

According to the Indonesian Pediatrics Association (IDAI) that one in nine confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia are children aged 0-18 years. Data on November 29, 2020 shows the proportion of child deaths due to Covid-19 compared to all deaths in Indonesia at 3.2% and is the highest in Asia Pacific today. Children who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms can be a source of transmission to those around them. Evidence shows that children can also experience severe symptoms of Covid-19 and develop a severe inflammatory disease caused by a mild Covid-19 infection previously experienced. On December 1, 2020, the Indonesian Pediatrician Association (IDAI) recorded that 11.3% of the total national Covid-19 cases were infected with Corona. Meanwhile, the number of deaths due to corona reached 21,237 people. Of these, 0.9% were children aged 0-5 years and 1.7% were children aged 6-18 years.

The percentage of child deaths due to Covid-19 in Indonesia is lower than other age groups, but the number is higher than the number from the United States and India, which are the two countries with the highest total Covid-19 cases in the world. In the United States, only 0.21% of all deaths from the corona virus are children. Meanwhile, in India, only 1% of deaths due to corona are children under the age of 18. In Gorontalo Province, the percentage of COVID-19 cases in children aged 3-6 years is 1.49% of the number of patients affected by Covid 19.

The implementation of physical distancing and large-scale social restriction (PSBB) policies that limit population mobility have an impact on limiting the accessibility of health services. This can pose a risk of disruption to the continuity of health services, including for toddlers, which has the potential to increase morbidity and mortality (Moreno et al., 2020; Hauck et al., 2008). So it is necessary to take steps to balance the need for handling Covid 19 and still ensure the continuity of essential health services for toddlers.

During the spread of Covid-19, health workers related to the target of toddlers, have roles, among others: Coordinating cross-programs at Puskesmas/health facilities in determining steps to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Conducting integrated socialization with other programs, including to people who have toddlers, about preventing the spread of COVID-19, emergency conditions and information on the nearest referral hospital (Susilowati et al., 2020; Gupta, D., Simalti et al., 2020). Conducting data analysis of at-risk toddlers who require follow-up.

Coordinate cadres, RT/RW/village/kelurahan heads, and community leaders regarding child targets and routine health services in the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Providing health services to toddlers by conducting triage, applying the principles of Infection Prevention and Control (PPI) and physical distancing in the health services provided.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia has published Guidelines for Toddler Health Services during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period in the context of preventing the transmission of Covid-19 to toddlers and pre-school children. The Puskesmas must be the spearhead in identifying families with toddlers and pre-school age as well as providing socialization about preventing the transmission of Covid-19, and continuing to provide education on how to maintain children's health (Ministry of Health, 2020).

This also makes us interested in participating in socializing efforts to break the chain of transmission of Covid-19, especially to toddlers by compiling the theme of Education on the Role of Parents in Caring for Toddlers during the Covid-19 Pandemic as an effort to break the chain of transmission of Covid-19 in toddlers. The purpose of this activity is to increase the knowledge and attitudes of parents of toddlers regarding how to care for toddlers during the pandemic and still pay attention to the growth and development needs and health of toddlers.

The outreach that we do is a form of community service which is one manifestation of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education contained in Law No. 12 of 2012 in Article 1 paragraph 9, namely the obligation of universities to provide education, research and community service. Community service is a form of crystallization and integration of the knowledge that is theoretically contained in college to be applied in real life in the community, so that the knowledge gained can be applied and developed in the life of the wider community (Barge, & Craig, 2009; Rai, 2011; Keller, 2011).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The mechanism for implementing community service activities includes the following stages: (1) Division of community service groups; (2) Consultation with the Head of South Isimu Village and Toddler Posyandu Cadres; (3) Preparation of tools and materials for extension activities; (4) Preparation and counseling materials for parents of toddlers include: (a) Preparation of extension materials to be given; (b) Mechanism of implementation in the form of methods to be used in counseling; (c) Providing material on the role of parents in the care of toddlers during the COVID-19 pandemic; (d) Question and answer session; (e) Documentation of activities.

The form of community service activities that will be carried out by Lecturers and Students is Counseling on the Role of Parents in Caring for Toddlers During the Covid 19 Pandemic, South Isimu Village, Kec. Tibawa Kab. Gorontalo. The method of activity carried out in this activity is percentage with the help of power points, leaflets, banners, lectures and discussions with documentation, materials and the attached attendance list.

The implementation of this service is carried out on Tuesday 27 April 2021. The stages of achieving the target results are described according to a sequence of implementation methods with several modifications according to field conditions and are further described in detail below. The lecturer held a meeting with the Head of the South Isimu Village and the Posyandu Cadre regarding the preparation for the placement of service students and things that students need to know about the situation and conditions of the place that will be used as a place of counseling. The stages of implementing outreach activities on educating the role of parents in caring for toddlers during the Covid 19 pandemic in Isimu Selatan Village, Kec. Tibawa Kab. Gorontalo

The results achieved with this activity, the South Isimu Posyandu Cadre, are very supportive and give thanks because the University of Muhammadiyah Gorontalo,

especially the Nurse Profession Study Program in carrying out this activity, all series of activities have been carried out with achieving good results because mothers of toddlers are willing to take part in counseling as many as 21 people and in accordance with reports on evidence of activities carried out.

CONCLUSION

A more intensive relationship between parents and their children, which has an impact on the growth and development of children, including how to care for children under five years old during the Covid 19 pandemic.

In terms of taking care of toddlers at home, there are steps that parents can take to prevent the individual level in breaking the chain of spreading Covid 19. The method is that parents must wash their hands before and after touching their children. The child stays at home, avoid taking him out if there is no interest. For children aged > 2 years must wear a mask and children < 2 years are not required because it can cause the risk of suffocation/choking/difficulty breathing. Then make it a habit to wash your hands with soap and clean water more often. And there is much more that parents can do in caring for toddlers while at home during the Covid-19 pandemic like this.

It is hoped that after this counseling, mothers can add insight regarding the role of parents in caring for toddlers during the covid 19 pandemic. This information is obtained by reading books, or looking for other sources of information such as internet media in the hope that respondents can obtain this information.

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