

**REFRESHING CADRES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMUNIZATION IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE MORBIDITY RATES IN INFANTS AND TODDLERS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Toddlers are the nation's children and the next generation who must be prepared in terms of knowledge, skills, and health. Diseases caused by infections generally have severe and dangerous consequences, such as disability or even death. These dangerous consequences can be prevented by immunizing children. One of the government's indicators for achieving health standards is reducing morbidity rates. The purpose of immunization is to build immunity so that they are less susceptible to infection by disease-causing viruses. Babies have a low immune system and therefore need immediate protection from infectious diseases. The purpose of this community service activity is to increase the knowledge of cadres about the importance of immunization for infants and toddlers. The results of the activity indicate that after measuring the level of knowledge about immunization, 97% of cadres were able to answer questions correctly.

*Keywords : Immunization, Infants and toddlers*

**A. INTRODUCTION**

Immunization is the greatest investment in a child's future. Immunization is a child's right that cannot be postponed or ignored. Children who do not receive complete and timely immunizations are more susceptible to various preventable diseases, such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, whooping cough, and diphtheria. Furthermore, unimmunized children are also more susceptible to other health problems.

Based on research results, many parents still have not immunized their children. Each year, there are approximately 2 to 3 million child deaths caused by diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), and measles. The proportion of children receiving recommended vaccines has remained stable over the past few years. During 2015, approximately 86% (116 million) of infants worldwide received three doses of the diphtheria -pertussis -tetanus (DPT3) vaccine .

protect them against infectious diseases that can cause serious illness and disability or be fatal (Libunelo, et.al)

Based on data released by the Indonesian Ministry of Health, the Complete Basic Immunization (IDL) coverage in eleven Indonesian provinces in 2022 is still below the national target of 90%. The eleven provinces in question are West Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, North Kalimantan, Riau, West Kalimantan, West Papua, West Sumatra, Papua, and Aceh. Complete Basic Immunization (IDL) coverage still reached 86.8% in April 2015. In 2019, the Ministry of Health targeted immunization coverage to be increased to reach the target of 93%. Facts on the ground show that there are still groups of people who have not been reached by health services (Ministry of Health, 2023).

Based on the latest routine data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, complete basic immunization coverage has declined significantly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, from 84.2% in 2020 to 79.6% in 2021. In various countries around the world, the lack of vaccine supplies, access to health services, lack of public knowledge, and limited political and financial support are the causes of the gap in immunization coverage. Indonesia's geographical conditions also pose a challenge to the immunization program. In addition to the lack of public knowledge and lack of information about immunization, the Government has also intensified health promotion programs to disseminate information about the importance of immunization.

To increase immunization coverage, the Ministry of Health has made efforts to ensure access to immunization services in hard-to-reach areas, ensure vaccine availability, provide training for health workers, and increase public awareness through various media and public service announcements. Furthermore, the government has collaborated with various community organizations to continuously educate the public and expand access and coverage to immunization (Ministry of Health, 2015).

Immunization is essential for providing protection, prevention, and building immunity against various infectious and dangerous diseases that can cause disability and even death. Immunization is the greatest investment for a child's future. Immunization is a child's right that cannot be postponed or ignored in the slightest. Children who do not receive complete and timely immunizations are more susceptible to various diseases that could be prevented by immunization, such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, whooping cough, and diphtheria. Furthermore, unimmunized children are also more susceptible to other health problems (Kaunang, et al, 2016).

Vaccine shortages, access to healthcare, inadequate public knowledge, and limited financial support are contributing to the gap in immunization coverage. According to the latest routine data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, complete basic immunization coverage has declined significantly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, from 84.2% in 2020 to 79.6% in 2021.

In order to increase immunization coverage, the Ministry of Health has made efforts to guarantee access to immunization services in hard-to-reach areas, ensure the availability of vaccines, provide training for health workers and make efforts to increase public knowledge through various media and

Public service announcements. In addition, the government has collaborated with various community organizations to continuously educate the public and expand access and coverage to immunization.



Figure 1. Photo of cadre refreshment activities



Figure 2. Photo of cadre refreshment activities

## B. SERVICE METHOD

The initial stage of this activity was to apply for permission from the Rancamaya sub-district and the Head of RW 08 to carry out the cadre education activities . The second step was to invite the cadres to attend the meeting location in person, and the third was to implement the activities. This educational activity was carried out face-to-face. The cadres' enthusiasm was also evident during the active Q&A session.

## C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This community service activity , which included health education on the importance of immunization for infants and toddlers, was conducted face-to-face, inviting local health workers from RW 08, Rancamaya Village. The activity took place on February 27, 2023. Participants in this community service activity were mothers with infants and toddlers in the Rancamaya Village area .

Rancamaya, South Bogor , with 20 participants . This community service activity was carried out in several stages, including:

1. Activity Implementation Stage

This activity, which involved providing information on the importance of immunization for infants and toddlers, was held offline at RW 08, Rancamaya Village. Prior to the presentation, participants were given a questionnaire to assess the cadres' understanding of the immunization material. The community service team presented material on the importance of immunization for infants and toddlers for 15 minutes, followed by a 10-minute discussion and question-and-answer session.

2. Question and answer session and measuring understanding of educational material

Following the presentation and discussion , the next activity was a question-and-answer session. The questions and answers were conducted with participants who had attended the outreach program from beginning to end. This Q&A aimed to assess the effectiveness of the outreach program. Following the Q&A session, the cadres' level of understanding of the immunization material was measured.

**Table 1. Results of pre and post knowledge measurements**

Information	Time	Results
Cadre Knowledge	Pre- education immunization	60 %
Cadre Knowledge	Educational post immunization	97 %

During the educational activity, there were no significant obstacles; the participants (cadres) responded very well and were willing to follow the activity until its completion. Participants were given an understanding of the comprehensive benefits of immunization for infants and the side effects that can arise if immunization is not carried out. Immunization is essential as a basic effort to provide protection, prevention, and build children's immunity against various infectious and dangerous diseases that can cause physical disabilities and even death (Supartini, 2012).

Providing complete and scheduled immunizations is not only beneficial for producing immunity against disease, but also preventing the transmission of disease or epidemics (Fida & Maya, 2012)

**D. CONCLUSION**

There was an increase in cadre knowledge after receiving education about the importance of immunization for infants and toddlers compared to before the education activity. This increased knowledge of cadres about the importance of immunization is expected to contribute to the success of the government's program by encouraging mothers with infants and toddlers to bring their children to health facilities for complete and appropriate immunizations.

time.

### **E. SUGGESTIONS**

The integrated health post (Posyandu) cadres and health cadres in RW 08, Rancamaya Village, Bogor, should continue to work together, inviting mothers who have babies and toddlers to bring their children to health facilities to get complete and timely immunizations and help reduce infant mortality due to diseases caused by not receiving immunizations.

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