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Knowledge of Posyandu Cadres in Stimulating Early Childhood with Special Needs

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ABSTRACT

Posyandu cadres are the spearhead of health education for the community, which means that they are the driving force, educators and servants of the community. In order to help achieve these goals, this community service study aims to determine and improve the knowledge of posyandu cadres in stimulating early childhood with special needs. This research was conducted in Kecamatan Wiradesa. The participants are posyandu cadre from Kecamatan Wiradesa who were appointed by the health service team and health center based on proportions with a total of 2 posyandu cadre for every village and sub-district in Wiradesa. There were 32 participants including students of Undip who are participating in KKN who did the pretest and 27 participants who did the post test. The data was analysed using simple statistic. Between the pre and post-test, the participants were given technical guidance on how to stimulate early childhood children with special needs in a simple way. It is found that the posyandu cadres' knowledge were improving between before and after the lectures by 10%. The number of participants was very small so that the results of this activity cannot be used as a standard in assessing the knowledge of posyandu cadres in general. This activity has increased the knowledge of posyandu cadres who participated in this activity in stimulating early childhood with special needs.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Posyandu cadres are the spearhead of health extension for the community so that the public knows, is willing and able to implement clean and healthy living behaviors (Anon, 2023). This clean and healthy living behavior must of course be owned by all residents, including residents with special needs or those who have children with special needs. From the posyandu and its cadres, residents who have children with special needs will gain knowledge and skills in stimulating the development and growth of their children.

Given the crucial role of posyandu cadres in child health services, the capacity of posyandu cadres in early detection and providing appropriate stimulation for children with special needs to be increased. This capacity increase is of course intended to overcome the gap that occurs in the availability of services and the needs of early childhood with special needs. Posyandu cadres as the spearhead of health services in the community, have great potential to become a bridge in meeting these needs. However, there are still many Posyandu cadres who do not have a comprehensive understanding of how to stimulate children with special needs. In the framework of this goal, posyandu cadres need to be given additional provisions in stimulating the development and growth of early childhood with special needs so that the stimulation provided is more effective.

2. METHODS

Partners in this community service implementation plan program are posyandu cadres in Wiradesa District. The next meeting to follow up on the collaboration was a meeting between the study programs at FIP UNJ with the Health Office. Based on the results of the discussion, we agreed to hold mentoring activities for posyandu cadres in Wiradesa District. Table 1. Explain about Activity Implementation. Figure 1. Explain about the stages of the implementation activities. The following are the stages of the implementation of the activities that have been carried out:

2.1 Preparation

This mentoring activity began with a discussion between the implementing parties, namely the Posyandu Team, FIP, UNJ and the Pekalongan Regency Health Office. The discussion activity produced information about the basic abilities possessed by posyandu cadres that posyandu cadres in Wiradesa sub-district have never been given special knowledge about early childhood with special needs and how to stimulate it. The second information obtained from this discussion activity included the determination of the implementation date, the number of participants to be presented and the place where the activity was held. The following is a photo of this activity.

2.2 Implementation

The implementation of this activity was carried out at the Kepatihan Village Office, Wiradesa District, which was attended by 32 posyandu cadres from 16 villages and sub-districts, 5 Undip KKN students who were seconded to oversee the activity and approximately 10 other members from the health center and PKK cadres. Table 1 explain the activity began by holding a pretest about children with special needs and simple stimulation for all participants. After the results of the pretest were collected, counseling about children with special needs and how to stimulate them was given by way of lectures, discussions and questions and answers between the presenters and participants. Next is the workshop activity by giving examples to the participants and participants practicing what they have learned. After the workshop was over, the activity continued by doing a

posttest with the same questions during the pretest. The data from the pretest and posttest results that have been carried out by the participants are analyzed by simple statistical analysis. The following is a picture of the activity address.

2.3 Evaluation

The next stage is an evaluation carried out by filling out a google form by the participants of the activity which aims to improve the implementation of further community service activities.



Figure 1. Stages implementation activities

Table 1. Activity Implementation Table

No.	Activities	Year 1											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Sudy introduction and survey to the target target												
2	Activity planning and preparation												
3	Introduction to stimulating												
4	Evaluation of Monitoring Activity Results												
5	Writing a draft report and journal												
6	Finalize reports and journals												

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Posyandu and PKK cadres are at the forefront of health counseling for the community so that people know, are willing and able to implement clean and healthy living behaviors (ANON, 2023; Tse, Suprojo, & Adiwidjaja, 2017; Fitriani, Apriadi & Hidayat, 2021; Susanto, Claramita & Handayani, 2017). The PKK and Posyandu cadres at any given time will definitely meet and serve the community in various things such as making the community aware of the consequences of stunting and its prevention (Hartono, Andini, Sartika & Hasanah, 2018; Ramadhan, Maradindo, Nurfatimah & Hafid, 2021; Permatasari, Turrahmi & Illavina, 2020; Megawati & Wiramihardja, 2019; Purnamasari, Shaluhiyah & Kusumawati, 2020; Utario & Sutriyanti, 2020), monitoring the nutritional status of toddlers (Faiqah & Suhartatik, 2022;

Noya, Ramadhan, Tadale & Widayani, 2021; Nurbaya, Saeni & Irwan, 2022; Nurvembrianti, Arianti, Harvika & Oktaviana, 2022) and early treatment of early childhood with special needs (Editor3, 2023).

The Posyandu and PKK cadres are the first source of information for people who have toddlers who bring their children to the nearest posyandu. The information provided is simple but very useful information for families with toddlers such as how to prevent stunting (Hartono, Andini, Sartika & Hasanah, 2018; Has, Ariestiningsih, & Mukarromah, 2021), the nutritional status of their toddlers after antropometry measurements were carried out (Noya, Ramadhan, Tadale & Widayani, 2021). To provide this information, of course, they need to continue to learn to add the knowledge and skills they need in serving the community who come to the posyandu.

The increase in knowledge and skills carried out by posyandu cadres will be very useful in helping the community. These knowledge and skill improvement activities can be carried out through collaboration between the village or village with the local health center and local university, as has been carried out by Angelina, Fauziah, Sinaga, Sianipar, Musa & Yuliani, (2020); Ummah, Kusdiana & Saputra (2021) and Has, Ariestiningsih, & Mukarromah (2021). These trainings will certainly further increase the knowledge and skills of posyandu cadres in preventing unwanted things from happening in their work areas.

But what if there is an unwanted incident in their work area, what should they do? In contrast to some of the articles above that seek to improve knowledge and skills, the group of authors of this article has carried out activities to empower posyandu cadres to provide early treatment in stimulating the development of early childhood with special needs. In this empowerment activity, the posyandu cadres who are participants are equipped with knowledge about what and who early childhood has special needs and how to provide developmental stimulation to them. No less important is the activity of practicing stimulation for early childhood with special needs carried out by resource persons and participants. This is intended to further improve the stimulation skills they have had before.

Based on the results of the evaluation conducted after the activity ended, as many as 65% of the participants stated that training on developmental stimulation for early childhood with special needs is very necessary for them. In addition, as many as 67.4% of participants strongly agreed that the training they had participated in would be very beneficial for them in serving early childhood families with special needs who visited the posyandu. This shows that the knowledge and skills that have been taught/trained to participants are very useful such as the training that has been carried out by Angelina, Fauziah, Sinaga, Sianipar, Musa & Yuliani (2020); Hartono, Andini, Sartika & Hasanah (2018) and Ramadhan, Maradindo, Nurfatimah & Hafid (2021).

4. CONCLUSION

Posyandu cadre assistance activities in stimulating early childhood with special needs have been successfully carried out. Based on the results of the data analysis that has been carried out, the knowledge and skills of the posyandu cadres who participated in this activity have increased after participating in the mentoring.

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