



RISK UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS ON COVID-19 MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN WEST SUMATRA PROVINCE

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Abstract, Background: Corona virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) has become a worldwide pandemic, including in Indonesia. The transmission of Covid-19 in Indonesia is very fast and has affected 34 provinces, even many provinces have become red zones. West Sumatra itself is included in the province with very fast transmission of Covid-19. Understanding the risks and prevention of the community in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic is very important to be able to reduce the risk of contracting between people. The purpose of this study was to determine the understanding of the risk of contracting Covid-19 in the community and the public's perception of the prevention of covid-19.

Method: The research design used was descriptive with a sample of 1024 respondents who were selected using the consecutive sampling method. Collecting data using a questionnaire with univariate quantitative analysis.

Results: The results of the study found that the understanding of the risk and prevention of the community against covid-19 was quite good. As a religious community, the people of West Sumatra surrender all life to God. The people of West Sumatra ask the government to further clarify the rules and open dialogue for every form of policy that will be issued

Keywords: risk, understanding, covid-19, perception, policies

Background

Corona virus Disease 2019 (Covid19) can cause respiratory tract infections in humans, ranging from the common cold to serious illnesses such as MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) (1). Covid-19 transmission can occur from person to person through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. Almost the whole world has been infected with COVID-19, based on WHO data (2020) the number of positive confirmed cases worldwide reached 233.6 million with a death toll of 4.7 million cases. Regarding the number of new cases, the Philippines is now the worst hit in Southeast Asia with 531,000 new cases. Indonesia is a country

infected with COVID-19. The number of cases since the first case was discovered in March 2020 to date is 4,239,396 cases with the number of deaths 143,176 deaths and the number of recovered patients 4,081,417 cases.

The spread of COVID-19 is so fast, where currently 34 provinces in Indonesia have positive confirmed cases of COVID-19, including West Sumatra (the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19, 2021). The number of positive confirmed cases in West Sumatra on October 24, 2020 was 89,720 cases, the number of deaths was 2143 cases.

The increase in the number of cases infected with COVID-19 is certainly influenced by

the health behavior of the community in preventing COVID-19. Health behavior is basically a response of a person (organism) to stimuli related to illness and disease, health care systems, food and the environment. Based on Bloom's Theory, behavior is measured through knowledge, attitudes, and actions or practices (2)

Giving this vaccine is the most appropriate solution to reduce and break the chain of transmission of Covid-19. Vaccination aims to provide specific immunity against a certain disease so that if one day exposed to the disease it will only experience mild symptoms. West Sumatra Province is one of three regions with low realization of COVID-19 vaccination in Indonesia. Based on data from the Ministry of Health as of October 10, 2021, from a total of 4,408,509 vaccination targets in West Sumatra, only 1,114,877 people or 25.29% were injected with the first dose of vaccine and 568,327 people or 12.89% had received the complete dose.

Then the Government has officially determined the implementation of Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities from July 3 to July 20, 2021. Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities stands for Enacting Restrictions on Community Activities. Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities was implemented to stem the rate of increase in the positive number of the corona virus or Covid-19.

The community is the front line so that the spread of the new corona virus does not spread further. Efforts that can be made by the community include implementing clean and healthy lifestyles, wearing masks when traveling, and maintaining distance. Dissemination and directives on the prevention of Covid-19 have been disseminated to the entire population. Most people already know about the Covid-19 disease and how to prevent it. There are still many people who have not done what the government has directed (3). People feel they can take care of themselves well even when they are outside the house or in a crowd, so people feel smart based on their own perceptions. This happens due to the low literacy ability of the community and there are still many people who do not have access to information media, so that the knowledge possessed by the community is still minimal in the outbreak of the Covid-19 outbreak (4).

The important thing to know about Covid-19 disease is how Covid-19 is transmitted, how to prevent, treat, and the complications that can occur if someone is infected with Covid-19 disease.(5). Knowledge is very important in determining a person's behavior, because knowledge forms beliefs which will then become the basis for someone in making decisions and determining behavior towards certain objects.

Several countries that are considered to have failed in dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak, such as Italy and India, are due to the poor attitude of the people in responding to government policies to stop the spread of Covid-19. Meanwhile, countries that are considered successful in dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak include China, Vietnam, Japan and South Korea. The country's success in dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak cannot be separated from the monitoring and supervision carried out by the government which is supported by public compliance with the rules and policies made by the government. Good knowledge and positive attitudes from the community in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic can make people take concrete actions to reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine the level of understanding of the risk and prevention of the people of West Sumatra about Covid-19.

Method

This research is a quantitative research with descriptive research method. The subjects of this study were all people of West Sumatra aged 17 years and over with a total of 5,441,197 (Central Bureau of Statistics of West Sumatra Province, 2020). Determination of the number of samples is done by using the sample size formula, so that a minimum sample of 1024 people is obtained. Collecting data using a questionnaire distributed to the people of West Sumatra. The knowledge and attitude questionnaires have been tested for validity and reliability. Data analysis uses frequency analysis to see the trend of Covid-19 prevention and compliance knowledge in the people of West Sumatra.

Results

Characteristics of respondents

Table 1. Characteristics of respondents (n=1024)

Characteristics	f	%
a. Sex		
- Male	388	37.9
- Female	636	62.1
b. Education		
- Not completed in primary school	10	1.0
- Graduated from elementary school	41	4.0
- Graduated from junior high school	88	8.6
- High school graduate	613	59.9
- College Graduation	272	26.6
c. Religion		
- Moslem	1021	99.7
- Protestan	3	.3
d. Ethnic group		
- Minang	935	91.3
- Batak	26	2.5
- Jawa	30	2.9
- Lainnya:	33	3.2
e. Family expenses		
- Under Rp. 1.000.000	293	28.6
- Rp 1.000.001- Rp 3.000.000	467	45.6
- Rp 3.000.001- Rp 5.000.000	211	20.6
- Above Rp 5.000.000	53	5.2
f. Respondent's occupation		
- Have a permanent job	320	31.3
- Working part-time	140	13.7
- Not yet working and currently unemployed	64	6.3
- Not yet working because I'm still in school/college	292	28.5
- Housewife	185	18.1
- Retired	23	2.2

Table 1 shows that generally the gender of the respondents is female (62.1%). Generally, education is senior high school (59.9%), the majority are Muslim (99.7%), have Minang ethnicity (91.3%), generally the respondent's expenditure is IDR 1–3 million a month, and generally have a permanent job (31.3%%) .

Symptoms of covid-19 that the respondent has suffered

Table 2. Symptoms of covid-19 that the respondent has suffered (n=1024)

Symptoms of covid-19	f	%
- Severe cough	66	6.4
- Out of breath	67	6.5
- High fever	112	10.9
- Loss of smell	87	8.5

Table 2 shows that the symptoms suffered by respondents during the COVID-19 pandemic were more high fever (10.9%), then loss of smell (8.5%).

Comorbidities suffered

Tabel 3. The respondent's comorbidities illness suffered (n=1024)

Comorbidities	f	%
- Diabetes Melitus	29	2.8
- Auto Imum Disease	15	1.5
- Kidney Disease	12	1.2
- Hipertention	58	5.7
- Tuberculosis	20	2.0
- Heart Disease	35	3.4
- Cancer	12	1.2

Table 3 shows that the respondent's comorbidities during the COVID-19 pandemic were hypertension (5.7%), then heart disease, 3.4%).

Friends, acquaintances, relatives, family or neighbors who have tested positive for COVID-19

Tabel 4. Friends, acquaintances, relatives, family or neighbors who have tested positive for COVID-19

Who have tested positive for COVID-19	Suffered of Covid 19		Died of covid 19	
	f	%	f	%
Friend	499	48.7	127	12.4
Relation	529	51.7	213	20.8
Family not at home/relatives	340	33.2	117	11.4
Household family members	340	33.2	42	4.1
Neighbor	408	39.8	174	17.0

Table 4 shows that 33.2% of household members have suffered from COVID-19 and 4.1% have died.

Understanding of the risk of covid-19

Table 5. Respondents' understanding of the risk of covid 19 (n=1024)

Understanding of the risk	No know (%)	No risk (%)	Just the same (%)	High risk (%)
People with comorbidities (hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, kidney failure)	8,7	1,2	7,7	82,4
Elderly people (over 60 years old)	3,9	1,7	6,6	87,8
People with low immunity	5,0	2,8	9,4	82,4
People who are overweight (obese)	30,8	7,8	22,9	38,5
You will be infected with COVID-19	5,8	31,4	49,1	13,5

Table 5 of respondents' understanding explains that elderly people have a high risk of experiencing COVID-19 disease, then followed

by people with comorbidities and people with low immune systems.

Actions regarding efforts to prevent contracting covid-19

Table 6. Respondents' actions regarding efforts to prevent contracting covid 19 (n=1024)

Actions regarding efforts to prevent	Never (%)	Seldom (%)	Often (%)	Always (%)
Doing Hand Washing Activities Using Soap	2.8	30.9	50.3	16.0
Activities to Avoid Touching Eyes, Nose and Mouth	3.7	44.6	41.3	10.4
Doing Activities Using Masks When Outside the Home	3.1	44.0	42.7	10.2
Doing Activities Avoiding Close Contact With Sick People	3.1	45.2	40.2	11.4
Doing Activities Doing Sports Regularly	2.5	44.9	42.1	10.4
Doing Crowd Avoiding Activities	2.6	43.5	42.4	11.5

Table 6 explains that the respondent's actions in preventing contracting the covid 19 disease are washing hands with soap (16.0%),

and what is always lacking is using masks outside the home.

Perceptions of the handling of covid-19

Table 7. Respondents' perceptions of the handling of covid 19(n=1024)

Respondents' perceptions of the handling of covid 19	f	%
- People are fed up with the Covid-19 situation	503	49.1
- Legal sanctions are too loose so there is no deterrent effect	130	12.7
- There is no control from the government over the policies implemented	73	7.1
- Inconsistent government policies	86	8.4
- There is a belief in society that one's life and death is in the hands of God	109	10.6
- There is no example that can set a good example for obeying the rules	20	2.0
- Low public knowledge of the dangers of Covid-19	103	10.1

Table 7 generally explains the respondent's perception of the handling of covid 19, namely that the community is saturated with the Covid-19 situation (49.1%) and then there is

a perception that the belief in the community is that one's life is in the hands of God / surrender (10.6%)

The most effective efforts are made by the government to improve public compliance with health protocols

Table 8. The most effective efforts made by the government to improve public compliance with health protocols (n=1024)

The most effective efforts	f	%
- Legal sanctions are strengthened	496	48.4
- People are rewarded when implementing health protocols	171	16.7
- Open space for dialogue between the community and the government for policy socialization	279	27.2
- Incorporating the local wisdom factor of the community in the policy	71	6.9
- Other,	7	0.7

Table 8 in the opinion of respondents, the most effective effort made by the government to improve public compliance with health protocols is legal sanctions are confirmed (48.4%) and then a dialogue space is opened between the community and the government to socialize the policy to deal with covid 19 (27.2%)

Discussion

The results showed that the level of understanding of the people of West Sumatra about the risk of Covid-19 was mostly good. It can be seen that old age and the presence of comorbidities pose a risk for suffering from covid-19. The people of West Sumatra have also taken preventive measures not to be infected by covid-19, although more is done to do social distancing. The best way to reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19 is to not directly exposed to the corona virus (Covid-19) such as close contact with patients, touching objects contaminated with coughing droplets or the breath of Covid-19 sufferers (6). The risk of contracting that was studied was the respondent's behavior in preventing contracting Covid-19. The majority of the people of West Sumatra already wear masks when gathering with other people, avoid shaking hands with other people, clean hands with hand sanitizer before touching objects, keep 1.5 meters distance from other people when shopping, worship, and work, provide hand

sanitizer in front of the entrance. at home, diligently exercising, and consuming vitamins to increase endurance(7),

In addition, by following health protocols such as using a mask, washing hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer when soap and running water are not available, maintaining a distance of at least one meter from other people and avoiding touching nose, eyes, mouth. and face with unwashed hands. Community discipline to commit to staying at home and doing activities from home such as studying, working and worshipping from home can break the chain of transmission of Covid-19(8). Another study also conducted by Al-Hanawi, et al (2020) on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Towards COVID-19 that the results in his research showed that the majority of the research participants had good knowledge. good attitude, optimistic attitude and good practice towards COVID-19 (9) Another study related to COVID-19 prevention attitudes by Azlan, et al (2020) regarding Public Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Towards COVID19 in Malaysia stated that Malaysians have a good and positive attitude towards controlling COVID-19 (10).

The COVID-19 outbreak has made people more aware of the vulnerability of humans to disease. Therefore, healthy living behavior will change for the better, by consuming a balanced healthy diet, exercising and sleeping regularly,

checking health conditions more regularly, looking for trusted health insurance, maintaining cleanliness, and using tools or taking supplements to avoid infection. disease. Healthy behavior is not limited to physical health but also mental health.

The results of the study found that the perception of the people of West Sumatra showed that the response was saturated with the current COVID-19 condition. So that you surrender your life to God, surrender. This is in accordance with the religion adopted by the majority of Muslims in West Sumatra. Everything that happens can not be separated from God's will, humans just run it.

As for groups of people who are not yet aware of the importance of physically and mentally healthy lifestyles, it is necessary to continue to be encouraged with campaigns that, for example, combine gain-loss framed messages, the concept of Tversky & Kahneman. In principle, behavior change can occur if there is a balance of information provided regarding the benefits of carrying out a healthy lifestyle and the disadvantages of not implementing it

Conclusion

The results of the study found that the public's understanding of the risks and prevention of COVID-19 was quite good. As a religious community, the people of West Sumatra surrender all life to God. The people of West Sumatra ask the government to further clarify the rules and open dialogue for every form of policy that will be issued

It is hoped that the public will continue to increase knowledge about preventing the transmission of Covid-19 by accessing official information and having a positive attitude in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic so that people can reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19. In addition, it is hoped that the government and health workers as the front line in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic continue to educate the public about preventing the transmission of Covid-19. For further researchers, it is hoped that they will be able to research with a wider area coverage.

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