Conference Paper

Knowledge and Attitudes Against Covid-19 Prevention Behavior of Public Health Students

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Abstract.

This observational quantitative research uses cross-sectional approach. The sample in this study amounted to 42 respondents who were taken using accidental sampling. Data were collected in the form of primary data using mixed questionnaires. The research was conducted in May – Juni 2022 at Faletehan University. Data were analyzed through univariate and bivariate analysis. The results of the univariate analysis showed that from 42 respondents, 15 (35,7%) public health students had poor behavior, 16 (38,1%) had poor knowledge levels, and 13 (31,0%) public health students behaved unfavorably. The results of the bivariate analysis with α = 0.05 showed that one variable related to Covid-19 prevention behavior, namely attitude with (p-value = 0.0035). On the other hand, the variable which was not related to Covid-19 prevention behavior was in knowledge level with (p-value = 08875). The conclusion is that there is a relationship between the attitude of public health students of Universitas Faletehan with Covid-19 prevention behavior. The most important and most instrumental thing in preventing Covid-19 behavior is to use a mask and wash hands using soap after handling something.

Keywords: attitude, Covid-19, knowledge level, prevention behavior

1. Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) China Country Office in December 2019 reported a cluster case of pneumonia with an unclear etiology (causes) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It is known that on January 7, 2020, the etiology of this disease is a new type of Coronavirus or what is known as Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), which is a new type of virus that has never been identified in humans. Previously, there were at least two types of coronavirus known to cause disease in humans, namely Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). WHO announced the official name of this new disease, namely "Covid-19"

(Coronavirus Disease 2019) listed on the International Classification Of Disease (ICD) on February 11, 2020.

Common signs and symptoms of Covid-19 infection include symptoms of acute respiratory distress such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The average incubation period is 5-6 days with the longest incubation period being 14 days. In severe cases of Covid-19, it can cause pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death. Clinical signs and symptoms reported in the majority of cases were fever, with some cases having difficulty breathing, and x-ray results showing extensive pneumonia infiltrates in both lungs [1]

The disease is transmitted from person to person through tiny droplets from the nose and mouth that are released when a person infected with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, or talks. People can become infected with Covid-19 if they inhale these droplets from someone who is infected with the virus. According to Dr. Eric Cioe-Pena, director of health at Global Northwell Health, New York, said the coronavirus enters the body through the respiratory tract, starting from the nose or mouth to the lungs. To infect someone, this virus needs to bind to enzymes found in cells in the respiratory tract. When this virus manages to enter the body and bloodstream, SARS-CoV-2 is thought to be able to spread and attack other organs of the body. Once infecting a person's body, this virus has no trouble infecting other cells of the body. In that way, this virus can damage the body's organs.

Launching LA Time, the coronavirus can be deadly because it attacks very vulnerable and vital body parts such as the lungs. The coronavirus, which causes the common cold, usually only infects the nose, sinuses, and throat. But for people who suffer from Covid-19, it generally spreads to the cells of the airways and lungs. An analysis involving 45,000 patients in China revealed that most cases or 81 percent only cause mild illness. Meanwhile, 14 percent experience severe symptoms, and only 5 percent of cases are considered critical, half of these infections can cause death [2].

The statement issued by the WHO regarding a global pandemic supported by the Indonesian government by declaring Covid-19 as an epidemic and non-natural national disaster, for this reason, efforts were made to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the community, starting from the ministerial level to regional, provincial, district and local heads. a municipality [3]. Actions taken by the government in anticipating and reducing the number of Covid-19 sufferers in Indonesia implemented social distancing, physical

distancing, work from home (WFH), regional quarantine, and Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) or lockdown in certain areas. The PSBB activity is a policy regulated in Government Regulation (PP) Number 21 of 2022 concerning PSBB in the context of Accelerating the Handling of Covid-19 [2]

Entering 2022, the Government introduced a new policy, namely PPKM (Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities). This policy is implemented in several areas in Java and Bali. Wiku Adsisasmito said that basically, the essence of PPKM is the same as PSBB, both of which aim to reduce active cases of Covid-19 and increase the number of recovered patients.

Currently, Indonesia is conducting a large-scale Covid-19 vaccination for the people of Indonesia. Even though vaccination has started, the best way to prevent it is to avoid factors that can cause you to be infected with this virus, namely implementing physical distancing, wearing a mask when doing activities in public places or crowds, washing hands with soap and running water or using hand sanitizer. contain at least 60% alcohol.

Covid-19 cases are still increasing. Global data based on WHO records as Covid-19 cases in the world reached seventeen million. The US is the worst-affected country in the world. While in Indonesia on October 6, 2020, there were 311,176 confirmed cases with a total death of 11,371 people spread throughout Indonesia, namely 497 districts/cities in 34 provinces including Banten [4].

Knowledge is the result of "knowing", and this occurs after people have sensed a certain object. Sensing occurs through the human senses, namely: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Most human knowledge is obtained through the eyes and ears [5]. [6] outlines the level of a person's knowledge including Know, Comprehensive, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation. Lack of student knowledge about how to prevent Covid-19 is a risk factor that can lead to exposure to the Covid-19 virus. This is to the research [7] Low knowledge will affect the behavior of respondents in prevention and the impact causes respondents to be lazy to do prevention, one of which is the use of gloves. In line with Moudy & Syakurah's research, (2020) Statistical test results show that there is a significant relationship between individual knowledge and individual actions regarding Covid-19 (p.Value = 0.000). [8]

In general, prevention can be interpreted as an action taken before an event that is expected (or suspected) will occur, so that the event does not occur or is avoided (to come before or precede, or anticipate, to make impossible by advance provision) [5]. Preventive behavior is a response to prevent disease, for example: sleeping using

mosquito nets to prevent malaria mosquito bites, immunization, and so on. This includes the behavior of not transmitting the disease to others [9].

Attitude is a reaction or response of someone who is still closed to a stimulus or object. Bell attitude is an action or activity, but it is a preposition of action or behavior [9]. Students' lack of attitude toward cleanliness and self-care as well as efforts to prevent Covid-19 can lead to being exposed to the virus. The unfavorable attitude of students can be a risk to paying attention to personal hygiene. This is in line with the research of Aryati, et al, [8] which showed that there was a relationship between attitude and the incidence of DHF. In line with the research of [9] Statistical test results show that there is a significant relationship between attitudes and Covid-19 prevention behavior (p-value = 0.001).

2. Methods and Equipment

Study used observational quantitative research with a Cross-Sectional approach which aims to determine the relationship between the level of knowledge and attitudes towards Covid-19 prevention behavior in public health students. The population in this study were all active students in the public health study program who were willing to fill out the online questionnaire provided by the researcher. The sampling technique used is accidental sampling with a sample of 42 respondents. The data collection instrument used was an indirect/ online questionnaire through the Google Form application. Analysis of the data used, namely univariate and bivariate by using the chi-square statistical test with a degree of significance = 0.05. This research was conducted at Universitas Faletehan Serang, Banten.

3. Results

3.1. Univariate Analysis

From the results of the research which were analyzed univariately, in table 1 as many as 35.7% had poor Covid-19 prevention behavior, 38.1% had poor knowledge levels, and 31.0% had poor attitudes toward Covid prevention behavior.

TABLE 1: Overview of *Covid-19 Prevention Behavior*, Knowledge Levels and Attitudes in Public Health Students at Universities in 2022.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Covid-19 Prevention Behavior		
Not good	15	35.7
Well	27	64.3
Amount	42	100
Knowledge level		
Not good	16	38.1
Well	26	61.9
Amount	42	100
Attitude		
Not good	13	31.0
Well	29	69.0
Amount	42	100

TABLE 2: Relationship between Knowledge Level and Behavior with *Covid-19 Prevention Behavior* in Public Health Students at Universitas Faletehan in 2022.

Knowledge level	Covid-19 Prevention Behavior				Total		pValue
	Not good		Well				
	F	%	F	%	N	%	
Not good	5	31.3	11	68.8	16	100	0.887
Well	10	38.5	16	61.5	26	100	
Amount	15	35.7	27	64.3	42	100	

3.2. Bivariate Analysis

Based on table 2 of the 16 respondents who have a poor level of knowledge, 5 respondents (31.3%) have poor Covid-19 prevention behavior, and as many as 11 respondents (68.8) have good Covid-19 prevention behavior. Meanwhile, of the 26 respondents who had a good level of knowledge, 10 respondents (38.5%) had poor Covid-19 prevention behavior and 16 respondents (61.5%) had good Covid-19 prevention behavior. From the results of bivariate analysis using the Chi-Square test obtained p-value = 0.887 when compared with the value of = 0.05 then p-value >, so it can be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the level of knowledge and Covid-19 prevention behavior in public health students at the Universitas Faletehan in 2022.

Based on Table 3, it was found that of the 13 respondents who had a bad attitude, 8 respondents (61.5%) had poor preventive behavior, and 5 respondents (38.5%) had good preventive behavior. Meanwhile, of the 29 respondents who had a good attitude, 7

TABLE 3: Relationship between Attitudes and *Covid-19 Prevention Behavior* in Public Health Students at Universitas Faletehan in 2022.

Attitude	Covid-19 Prevention Behavior				Total		p.Value	OR
	Not good		Well					
	F	%	F	%	N	%		
Not good	8	61.5	5	38.5	13	100	0.047	5.02
Well	7	24.1	22	75.9	29	100		
Amount	15	35.7	27	64.3	42	100		

(24.1%) had poor preventive behavior and 22 respondents (75.9%) had good preventive behavior. From the results of the bivariate analysis using the Chi-Square test, it was obtained that p-value = 0.047 when compared to the value of = 0.05 then p-value <, so it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between attitudes and Covid-19 prevention behavior in the health students community at Universitas Faletehan in 2022.

4. Discussion

4.1. Knowledge

The results of statistical tests using the Chi-Square test showed that there was no significant relationship between knowledge level and Covid-19 prevention behavior in public health students at Universitas Faletehan in 2022. This study is in line with the research of Desti et al., [9] no relationship is quite significant between the level of knowledge and the behavior of preventing Covid-19. This study shows that there are still many students who have bad behavior such as not getting used to cleaning themselves (showering) before interacting with family. This is because people know that Covid-19 is a disease that has infected millions of people around the world but people lack awareness and discipline in implementing Covid-19 prevention efforts, one of which is obeying health protocols. Public care and awareness to make efforts to prevent Covid-19 is still lacking, not only harming yourself but also your family and others [10].

4.2. Attitude

The results of statistical tests using the Chi-Square test that there is a significant relationship between attitudes and Covid-19 prevention behavior in public health students at Universitas Faletehan in 2022. These results are by research conducted by Aini

and Purwasari [7] which explains the relationship between attitudes with behavior has a value of p-*value*= 0.007 (<0.05) meaning that there is a significant relationship between attitudes and Covid-19 prevention behavior. The most important and most important thing in preventing Covid-19 behavior is to use a mask and wash your hands with soap after handling something. According to Desty et al., (2022) attitude is important because it affects actions, although attitudes are not always shown in behavior and actions. Attitudes toward risk can influence health-related behavior and change risky behavior. Based on adaptation theory, states that a good level of knowledge can encourage a person to have good attitudes and behavior as well. An attitude is not necessarily the formation of an action (overt behavior). This is influenced by the tendency of a person to make preparations before finally deciding to act or is called a tendency to behave.

5. Conclusion

From the results of research on the relationship between knowledge levels and attitudes toward Covid-19 prevention behavior in public health students in 2022, it can be concluded that as many as 15 (35.7%) Covid-19 prevention behaviors in public health students at Universitas Faletehan are not good, as many as 16 (38),1%) public health students at Universitas Faletehan have poor knowledge, as many as 13 (31.0%) public health students at Universitas Faletehan have a bad attitude.

From the results of the analysis, it was found that the level of knowledge of Universitas Faletehan's public health students was not related to Covid-19 prevention behavior. The attitude of Universitas Faletehan's public health students has a relationship with Covid-19 prevention behavior.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declared that they have no competing interests .

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