



## The Effect of Strengthening Knowledge in Pandemic Era on Community Behavior at Campus

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### ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic is a virus that is dangerous to humans. All segments of human life are disrupted, without exception education. Many countries have decided to close schools, colleges and universities, including Indonesia. The incidence of Covid 19 is increasing every day, the latest data from the Riau Provincial Health Office as of May 29, 2021, namely Pekanbaru 26,442 cases, Kampar 4054 cases, Palelawan 1776 cases, Indragiri Hulu 2675 cases, Indragiri Hilir 1492 cases, Dumai 5612 cases, Kap Meranti 826 cases, Bengkalis 3801 cases, Siak 4400 cases, Kuansing Singingi 2097 cases, Rokan Hilir, Rokan Hulu 1971 cases. This study aims to determine the effect of strengthening knowledge in the Pandemic era on community behavior on campus, which was collected using a questionnaire and analyzed by using the Chi Square test. ). Most of the respondents' behavior about COVID-19 was in the good category, namely 56 respondents (52.8%). Chi Square test on the knowledge and behavior of respondents showed the value of p value = 0.020 (p <0.05). From these results it can be concluded that there is a relationship between respondents' knowledge and COVID-19 prevention behavior in the community. Knowledge plays an important role in determining complete behavior because knowledge will form beliefs which then in perceiving reality, providing a basis for decision making and determining behavior towards specific object

**Keywords:** *Strengthening Knowledge, Community Behaviour, Pandemic Era*

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## INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause disease in humans and animals. In humans, it usually causes respiratory tract infections, ranging from the common cold to serious illnesses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (Sari & Latief, 2021; Effendi, Kurniawan, & Setiawati, 2021).). A new type of coronavirus found in humans since an extraordinary event appeared in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, was later named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV2), and caused Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) (Said & Muslimah, 2021; Rahimah, et al., 2020).

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has become the most serious global threat in recent years. The World Health Organization (WHO) through The International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declared the COVID-19 pandemic a public health

emergency. COVID-19 is the latest example of a new emerging infectious disease and is accompanied by complex threats to human life. COVID-19 is an RNA virus whose particle size is 120-160 nm. This virus infects animals, such as bats and camels which then mutate and infect humans. COVID-19 is caused by a group of coronaviruses belonging to the betacoronavirus genus (Gorbalenya et al. 2020).

WHO also said that Covid-19 is transmitted through people who have been infected with the virus by spreading through small droplets from their nose or mouth. When a person with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes, then it hits healthy people, either from the surface of objects that are touched or spread when inhaled by someone when they are close together (CNBC Indonesia, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic is a tragedy that grieves the entire population of the earth. All segments of human life on earth are disrupted, without exception education. Many countries have decided to close schools, colleges and universities, including Indonesia. The crisis really came suddenly, governments in any part of the world including Indonesia had to make a bitter decision to close schools to reduce people's contact massively and to save lives or still have to open schools in order to survive for workers in maintaining economic sustainability. (R. H. Shah, 2020)

The impact on the continuity of education caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The first is the short-term impact, which is felt by many families in Indonesia, both in the city and in the village. In Indonesia, many families are not familiar with doing school at home (Khadijah, 2021). Homeschooling for Indonesian families is a big surprise, especially for the productivity of parents who are usually busy with their work outside the home. Likewise with the psychological problems of students who are accustomed to learning face to face with their teachers. All elements of education in social life are "exposed" to illness due to COVID-19. The implementation of teaching takes place online, for instance using google classroom (Dewi, Utami & Suhono). This process is running on a scale that has never been measured and tested because it has never happened before. (Heryanto and Rochaeni 2020; Rahimah, R., et al., 2020)

The incidence of Covid 19 is increasing every day, the latest data from the Riau Provincial Health Office as of May 29, 2021, namely Pekanbaru 26,442 cases, Kampar 4054 cases, Palelawan 1776 cases, Indragiri Hulu 2675 cases, Indragiri Hilir 1492 cases, Dumai 5612 cases, Kap Meranti 826 cases, Bengkalis 3801 cases, Siak 4400 cases, Kuansing Singingi 2097 cases, Rokan Hilir, Rokan Hulu 1971 cases. Cases of patients who died from COVID-19 in Rokan Hulu Regency from March 2020 to May 28, 2021 experienced a spike. This spike in death cases began in March 2021 with 11 deaths. This number increased in April 2021 to 23 cases. Meanwhile, until the fourth week of May 2021, 23 more cases of COVID-19 deaths have been added. Of the total 1946 cases, up to 1989 patients recovered, with details of 30 emergency patients, 127 self-isolation and 100 deaths.

The number of cases of covid 19 in Rokan Hulu Regency to avoid the virus, as citizens, should obey and enforce PHBS in daily life in order to avoid dangerous diseases that can lead to death. From the description above, the researcher wants to see how the effect of strengthening knowledge in the pandemic era on people's behavior on campus. The aim of this study analyzing the knowledge of the campus community about covid-19, the behavior of the campus community about covid-19 and the influence of knowledge on the community's Covid-19 prevention behavior on campus during the pandemic.

## METHODS

This research is quantitative in nature, namely to determine the effect of strengthening knowledge in the pandemic era on community behavior in the campus environment. This research design uses a cross sectional time approach, which is an observation approach or data collection at one time (point time approach), by only measuring the status of characters or variables (Saryono and Anggraeni, 2013). This research conducted at Pasir Pengaraian University. The sampling technique in this study was the accidental sampling technique, which is a sampling technique based on chance, that is, any respondents who are willing to fill out the link to the questionnaire distributed at Pasir Pengaraian University, (Sugiono 2016). The instrument used in this study uses a questionnaire (a list of questions), where respondents only need to answer the questions that have been provided (Saryono, 2013). Data collection method consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained directly from the object of research by using direct measurement tools on the subject as a source of information sought. The advantage of primary data is higher accuracy. the object under study (Saryono in Anggraeni, 2018). Secondary data is a source of research data obtained by researchers indirectly from the object of research. Secondary data in this study was obtain

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter will describe the results of research on the effect of strengthening knowledge in the pandemic era on community behavior on campus. The number of respondents is 106 people. The results of the univariate analysis show the following:

Table 5.1 Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Knowledge about Covid-19

| Knowladge | Frekuensi | Persentase |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Kurang    | 39        | 36,8       |
| Baik      | 67        | 63,2       |
| Total     | 106       | 100,0      |

From the results of the study, it was found that out of 106 respondents, most of the respondents had good knowledge of COVID-19 with a total of 67 respondents (63.2%).

Table 5.2 Frequency Distribution of Respondents' Behavior regarding COVID-19 .

| Behavior   | Frekuensi | Persentase |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Not Enough | 50        | 47,2       |
| Good       | 56        | 52,8       |
| Total      | 106       | 100,0      |

From the results of the study, it was obtained data that from 106 respondents, most of the respondents behaved well about covid-19 with 56 respondents (52.8%).

Table 5.3 Effect of Knowledge on Respondents' Preventive Behavior during the Pandemic

| Variabel  |            | Behavior   |       |      |       | Total |       | P Value |
|-----------|------------|------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
|           |            | Not enough |       | Good |       | N     | %     |         |
|           |            | N          | %     | N    | %     |       |       |         |
| Knowledge | Not Enough | 24         | 22,64 | 15   | 14,15 | 39    | 36,79 | 0,020   |
|           | Good       | 26         | 24,53 | 41   | 38,68 | 67    | 63,21 |         |
| Total     |            | 50         | 47,17 | 56   | 52,83 | 106   | 100   |         |

Based on the table Table 5.3. respondents with good knowledge and good preventive behavior are 41 (38.68%), respondents with good knowledge and poor preventive behavior are 26 (38.68%), respondents with poor knowledge and good preventive behavior are 15 (14.15%), respondents are knowledgeable less and less prevention behavior as much as 24 (22.64%), The results of the correlation test using the Chi Square test  $p = 0.020$  ( $p$  value  $< 0.05$ ), this indicates that there is a significant relationship between knowledge and COVID-19 prevention behavior in the campus community at Pasir Pengaraian University.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Public Knowledge about Covid-19

The majority of respondents have good knowledge, namely 67 respondents (63.2%) this can be because there are already respondents who have experienced or contracted COVID-19. And the government is aggressively providing information about COVID-19 both in print and electronic media. This is in accordance with Notoatmodjo's (2012) theory, namely knowledge is the result of knowing and occurs after a person contacts an object through the five senses, in the form of hearing, smelling, seeing, feeling and touching. The senses that are often used to produce knowledge are sight in the form of the eyes and the sense of hearing, not only that information received through the five senses about certain topics is understood and maintained for further use according to needs. Knowledge can also be obtained from experience, both personal experience and the experiences of other people who are studied. In addition, knowledge can be sourced from the mass media and the results of interactions with the environment (Siltrakool, 2018).

This research is in line with that conducted by Patimah, I et al, (2020) showing that as many as 74.6% of respondents, participants in the COVID-19 seminar at STIKes Raflesia have good knowledge, and according to research conducted by Mujiburrahman, (2020) shows that as many as 86 respondents (82.7%) have good knowledge. Public knowledge about Covid 19 is a very important aspect in the current pandemic, which includes the causes of covid and the characteristics of the virus, signs and symptoms, terms related to covid, necessary examinations and the transmission process as well as efforts to prevent the disease. Knowledge of the campus community What is good about covid 19 has an effect on the incidence and prevention of covid-19 disease. Good knowledge can be supported by acceptance of information circulating in the community about covid 19 (Sulistyaningtyas, 2020).

## 2. Community COVID-19 Prevention Behavior

The majority of the COVID-19 prevention behaviors were moderate behavior, namely 53 respondents (51.0%), the form of behavior aimed was compliance with wearing masks, washing hands with soap and staying away from crowds when outside the house and not touching or shaking hands with other people. Someone who already knows about certain information, then he will be able to determine and make decisions on how he should deal with it. In other words, when a person has information about COVID-19, he will be able to determine how he should behave towards COVID-19 (Ahmadi, 2013).

Based on Skinner's behavioral limitations in Notoatmodjo (2007), health behavior is a response of a person (organism) to a stimulus or object related to illness and disease, the health care system, food, drink and the environment. Human responses are either passive (knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions) or active (actions or practices). Healthy behavior is knowledge, attitude, action, proactive to maintain and prevent the risk of disease (Depkes RI, 2003: 3). From this limitation, health behavior can be classified into three groups: Health maintenance behavior, search and use behavior of health service systems or facilities, environmental health behavior.

This research is in line with that conducted by Mujiburrahman, (2020) which shows that as many as 53 respondents (51.0%) of community respondents in Potorono Banguntapan Hamlet, Bantul, Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, have adequate behavior, the forms of behavior shown include compliance in using masks when outside home, washing hands with soap or hand sanitizer frequently, avoiding crowds and maintaining social or physical distancing. Hand washing is an effective way to kill germs, it is known that the COVID-19 virus can stick to body parts, especially hands that touch objects that have been infected by droplets. The Ministry of Health said that 75% of the transmission of the covid virus is through splashing saliva on objects (Kemenkes, 2020). Therefore, in this study, most of the respondents wash their hands after handling objects that have been touched according to health protocols.

## 3. The influence of knowledge on COVID-19 prevention behavior

The majority of respondents with good knowledge and good preventive behavior are 41 (38.68%) and the results of the correlation test using the Chi Square test  $p = 0.020$  ( $p$  value  $< 0.05$ ), this shows that there is a significant influence between knowledge and behavior prevention of COVID-19 in the campus community at Pasir Pengaraian University.

The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted by Mujiburrahman, 2020 with the title Knowledge Associated with Increasing COVID-19 Prevention Behavior in the Community, there is a relationship between respondents' knowledge and COVID-19 prevention behavior in the community, and in accordance with research conducted by Purnamasari, Raharyani, 2020, about the level of knowledge and behavior of the people of Wonosobo Regency about Covid -19 Assumptions Good knowledge will affect good behavior as well, because knowledge plays an important role in determining complete behavior because knowledge will form beliefs which then in perceiving reality, provide a basis for decision making and determine behavior towards certain objects and because the higher the level of one's knowledge then the easier it is to determine what he should choose and what he should do in his life

## CONCLUSSION

The level of knowledge of respondents both about Covid-19 and the behavior of the majority of respondents have good behavior and there is an influence of Knowledge about Covid-19 on Covid-19 prevention behavior.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The authors had participated in the research. The authors processing the finding, evaluation of research, and finishing review process.

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