Family planning counseling capacity in improving family knowledge during the covid-19 pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Practical steps are needed to overcome various demographic challenges, and one of the programs considered important is Family Planning (KB). Through family planning, standardize birth, ideal birth interval and reproductive age, control pregnancy period, and promote, guarantee and support reproductive rights to build high-quality families. Family planning programmes enable women to manage their pregnancies and reduce maternal mortality. Given the importance of counseling in the success of family planning programs, this review study aimed to further explore the ability of family planning counseling to increase family knowledge during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study is a systematic review using online databases namely Scholar, ScienceDirect, and ProQuest. The keywords used were Family Planning, Family Knowledge, Pandemic, Covid-19. The selection process used the PRISMA protocol, resulting in 15 articles that met the inclusion criteria. The results of the study show that most family planning cadres had high skill levels during the epidemic, but the overall level of family knowledge was still low. This is due to obstacles such as community cultural development, a limited number of family planning teachers, limited family planning service facilities and infrastructure, and lack of public awareness of family planning work. But overall, family planning programs are supported by the community and religious leaders, capable field workers, and scientific and technological developments. Families' knowledge of family planning relies on consultants, especially medical staff and family planning consultants, as sources of information. Mass media resources are very limited.

Keywords: Family Planning, Family Knowledge, Pandemic, Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world after China, India, and the United States. According to the 2020 census results released by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), Indonesia's population reached 270.2 million, with a population growth rate of 1.25%1. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization2,3,4. Faced with
outbreak of the unnatural COVID-19 disaster, a massive social containment policy (PSBB) has been implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This condition has implications for the continuum of public health services, including family planning (AI) and reproductive health. The impact of family planning services during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a decrease in the number of family planning participants across Indonesia in March 2020 compared to February 2020\(^5,6\).

The use of IUDs in February 2020 was 36,155 acceptors decreased to 23,383 acceptors. While the use of implants from 81,062 acceptors to 51,536 injectors from 524,989 acceptors to 341,109 acceptors, pills from 251,619 acceptors to 146,767 acceptors, condoms from 19,583 acceptors, MOP from 2,283 acceptors to 1,196 acceptors to 13,5713 acceptors, and MOW from 13,57193 acceptors. In April there was a 10% decrease in active participants or acceptors compared to the previous month, which recorded around 26 million active family planning participants, while in March it was 36 million acceptors. 283 acceptors to 1,196 acceptors, and MOW from 13,571 acceptors to 8093 acceptors.

In April there was a 10% decrease in active participants or acceptors compared to the previous month, which recorded around 26 million active family planning participants, while in March it was 36 million acceptors. 283 acceptors to 1,196 acceptors, and MOW from 13,571 acceptors to 8093 acceptors. The decline between provinces is an average of 10%-15% from the previous acceptors. From this data, there are around 10 million couples who do not use contraception during the pandemic which results in 7 million unwanted pregnancies (KTD). The cause of the low use of contraceptives is the lack of information about contraceptives, the cost of buying and installing contraceptives is not affordable\(^7,8\). Knowledge of family planning is very important for acceptors in choosing contraceptives, and currently, there are still many women who have difficulty in making choices.

In an effort to maximize family planning services in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to increase the capacity of cadres. Increasing the capacity of family planning instructors and family planning officers certainly has limitations during the pandemic. If previously messages were always delivered face-to-face, now family planning extension workers and other family planning officers need to think of alternative ways. The level of capacity that exists in a person is influenced by factors that come from himself and from the environment outside himself, especially from the group environment in which he lives\(^9,10\). In line with personal characteristics and external and environmental factors, it is proven to be significantly related to the capacity of one's resources. Capacity refers to the context of performance (performance), ability (ability), capability (capability), and the qualitative potential of an object or person. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the family planning program requires serious involvement of all parties, including family planning field officers as parties who have direct contact with the community.

This is related to the ability of the officers. In fact, in the field, family planning cadres are more likely to play a role in family planning counseling activities; because the number is more and the proximity of the place of residence makes it more frequent to interact with the community. The extent to which the capacity of family planning cadres in carrying out family planning counseling and what factors are related to this capacity is very important to study, which can then be used as the basis for developing the capacity of family planning cadres. The purpose of this systematic review is to find out the Capacity of Family Planning Extension in Improving Family Knowledge during the Covid-19 Pandemic

**METHODS**
Database searches include Google Scholar, Science Direct, and Proquest with keywords for family planning counseling. The next stage is to select articles according to the criteria limits, which are published in 2018-2021 with full text, in the preparation of Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta Analysis (PRISMA) the articles that have been found are then synthesized and analyzed according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria in this systematic review are (1) the capacity of family planning counseling cadres in increasing family planning knowledge in couples of childbearing age during the Covid-19 pandemic (2), research can provide information about the effectiveness of counseling and the level of cadre capacity. While the exclusion criteria in this systematic review are (1): articles that do not describe the Capacity of Family Planning Extension cadres. The search for articles began in August 2022 with keywords that had been determined by the researcher. The articles found by the researcher were selected according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria, with the keywords Family Planning Extension Capacity. Family Planning Knowledge, Covid-19 Pandemic. The researcher deletes the published articles, examines the articles that meet the criteria and groups them according to the research results to proceed to the discussion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Initial literature search found 30 articles (Google Schoolar 18 articles, Science Direct 10 articles, Proquest 2 articles) 15 articles issued were not in sync with the discussion topic and did not discuss Family Planning Extension Capacity 15 full text articles met the criteria as listed in Image 1

![Flow diagram and article selection](image)

The results of 15 articles found that the capacity of family planning counseling cadres in increasing family planning knowledge during the Covid-19 pandemic was obtained by analysis of research articles on the capacity of family planning counseling cadres in increasing family planning knowledge during the Covid-19 Pandemic in general.

**Table 1. Factors for the Incidence of ARI in Toddlers during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Title, author, year</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning Services Urip et al 2021.13</td>
<td>The results of the study stated that the era of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on family planning services in Central Java, namely the decline in family planning services. The number of active family planning participants has decreased and increased during the COVID-19 pandemic era. This can be seen from the decrease in the number of active family planning participants in the injection, pill, MOW, and MOP contraceptive methods as well as the increase in the number of active family planning participants in the IUD, implant, and condom contraceptive methods.</td>
</tr>
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2 Improving the Competence of Family Planning Extension Officers in East Java Province Through E-Learning-Based Training  
Nurhajati, 2018.  
This research is a descriptive research using secondary data through literature study from various sources. E-learning conducted by BKKBN in 2012 has various weaknesses, both in context, input, and process. Development of e-learning in the future must accommodate the learning needs of PKB, both in terms of competence, facilities infrastructure, human resources managers, and rewards so that PKB can learn the material independently without having to follow the conventional training class. When learning independence has increased, learning outcomes will increase, therefore the competence of PKB can meet the standards.

3 Empowerment of Family Planning Field Extension Officers (PLKB) in Services for Family Planning Participants at the Office of Women's Empowerment and Family Planning in West Kutai Regency  
Empowerment of PLKB is important to build power by encouraging, motivating, and raising awareness of the potential of Family Planning Extension Workers (PLKB) as well as trying to develop and improve knowledge, skills, and abilities as well as critical thinking ability in order to increase capacity and professional competence to succeed. National Family Planning Program.

4 Cadre Capacity in Family Planning Counseling in Palembang City, South Sumatra Province  
The results showed that the level of capacity of family planning cadres in the city of Palembang was in the low category. Factors that are important to consider to develop the capacity of family planning cadres are experience, training attended, support for extension workers, and information support.

5 The Role of Family Planning Counseling in Improving Family Planning Knowledge for Couples of Childbearing Age (PUS) for Poor Community Groups  
Fatchiya, 2021.  
The results showed that the level of knowledge about family planning with the poor in PUS was classified as low. The results of statistical tests show that extension services have an effect on the level of knowledge of the PUS about family planning.

6 The Role of Family Planning Counselors in Increasing Community Participation in Family Planning Programs  
Ibrahim, Annisa Malik (2021).  
The results showed that the family planning programs used to increase community participation in the family planning program were socialization, home visits and the use of media. The results of further research indicate that the role of family planning instructors in increasing community participation in the family planning program is the manager of the family planning program implementor, the driver of community participation and the empowerment of families and communities.

7 Performance of Family Planning Field Extension Officers (PLKB) at the Office of the Community Empowerment and Family Planning Agency (BPMKB) in Subang Regency  
Wasis Wicaksono, 2016.  
The results showed that the performance of the Family Planning Field Extension Officer at the Office of the Community Empowerment and Family Planning Agency in Subang Regency as a whole was seen based on being in the good category, although there were several indicators that needed to be improved to maximize employee performance.

8 Counseling on Family Planning to Increase Knowledge in Couples of Childbearing Age (PUS)  
Athica Oviana, 2016.  
The results of the statistical test obtained a p value of 0.000 which means that there are benefits of counseling about family planning to increase knowledge at the age of the couple (EFA) about family planning in Jorong Rawang, PasirTalang Selatan Village, the working area of Sungai Pagu Community Health Center, South Solok Regency in 2017.

9 The effect of counseling on couples of childbearing age on the level of knowledge about family planning in Sine Village, Sragen  
Rahayu, 2010.  
Research Results: The results of the t-test showed that the p value of the t-test statistic was 0.000 (p < 0.05) and t count (12.44) > t table (2.021). Conclusion: There is an effect of providing counseling on the level of knowledge of couples of childbearing age (PUS) about family planning. Keywords: Family Planning, Counseling, Knowledge

10 Family Extension Performance Analysis Planning on the Population Program Family Planning and Family  
The Results of the study that respondents' responses about understanding the results of performance as a family planning counselor who expressed doubts 5 people or 15.15 % who agreed with the number of 22 people or 66.66% and strongly
Discussion

In Indonesia, during the pandemic there was no cessation of family planning program extension activities, although nationally there has been an adjustment in the budget allocation in the refocusing scheme for handling Covid-19 of 408.6 billion. BKKBN issued Circular No. 8 of 2020 concerning Family Planning Participation Development in the Covid-19 Situation. In the regulation, the BKKBN issued five main strategies to answer the challenges of family planning services during the pandemic. The strategy includes appealing relevant officers to conduct family planning participation coaching by utilizing various online media and ensuring the availability of contraceptive devices and drugs (alokon) to the health facilities level. Increasing family planning counseling capacity is very important in the midst of a pandemic.

However, in carrying out the duties and functions of the family planning coach, they are influenced by those around the family planning coach who support and support their performance, but may also hinder or impair their performance. As field workers, family planning workers interact with communities more frequently than project goals, either directly or indirectly.

The work environment for family planning trainers is different from that of the average worker.
Community support is one of the factors in the success of counseling. If the environment around the coach is better, this will improve the coach's performance, otherwise if the environment around the coach is not good, it will reduce the coach's performance.

Environment affects the performance of Extension Office. If the environment around the coach becomes better, this will improve the coach's performance, otherwise if the environment around the coach is bad, it will reduce the coach's performance. Counselor support determines the ability of family planning officials to conduct family planning counseling. This means that counselor support plays a very important role in developing the capacity of family planning cadres. This is because the counselors try to provide information about the counseling activities of the family planning program at each meeting, and there is an exchange of information between the family planning officials and counselors.

Through the interaction with the counselors, family planning cadres have the opportunity to consult with the counselors and discuss the actual situation on the spot, which in turn becomes a means for family planning cadres to carry out family planning counseling activities. Family planning counseling activities target communities from diverse educational, social, economic and cultural backgrounds. Sometimes it is difficult for the community to immediately embrace the changes/innovations offered by the family planning cadres. The family planning cadres are required to have the ability to discover any problems in family planning consultation activities, find out the causes of the problems, and formulate solutions to the problems. Information support determines the ability level of family planning officials to carry out family planning consultation.

This means that information support is a very important factor to consider in developing the capacity of family planning cadres. The activity of family planning cadres in accessing information, communicating and dealing with outside parties can increase the capacity of family planning cadres in conducting counseling and to overcome the problems they face in family planning program activities so that they become better. Access to family planning program information is the ability of family planning cadres to develop their potential for technological developments and renewal. This is also related to the development of the learning process, which requires family planning cadres to seek information and innovations, both about family planning programs and about counseling techniques and methods to be applied in family planning counseling.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that most family planning cadres had high skill levels during the epidemic, but the overall level of family knowledge was still low. This is due to obstacles such as community cultural development, a limited number of family planning teachers, limited family planning service facilities and infrastructure, and lack of public awareness of family planning work. But overall, family planning programs are supported by the community and religious leaders, capable field workers, and scientific and technological developments. Families' knowledge of family planning relies on consultants, especially medical staff and family planning consultants, as sources of information. Mass media resources are very limited.

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