

Knowledge, Attitude, and Implementation of Cold Chain Management in Boalemo District, Gorontalo, Indonesia

Paulus Pangalo¹⁾, Zulfiayu Sapiun²⁾, Wenny Inno Ischak¹⁾,
Misrawatie Goi³⁾, Hartati²⁾

¹⁾Study Program of Nursing, Health Polytechnics, Ministry of Health Gorontalo

²⁾Study Program of Pharmacy, Ministry of Health Gorontalo

³⁾Study Program of Nutrition, Ministry of Health Gorontalo

ABSTRACT

Background: Children's health is a priority in health development with the goal of reducing child mortality. So far, high immunization coverage does not guarantee the emergence of diseases that can be prevented by immunization (PD3I). Cold Chain Management is a system used to store vaccines in good condition which refers to the vaccine supply chain for the immunization procurement chain. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship of knowledge, attitude, and implementation of cold chain management.

Subjects and Method: This was a cross sectional study conducted at 11 health centers in Boalemo District, Gorontalo, Indonesia, in September 2018. A sample of 34 health officers was selected purposively. The dependent variable was cold chain management. The independent variables were knowledge and attitude. The data were collected by questionnaire and observation sheets. The data were analyzed by Chi square.

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BACKGROUND

Health development is essentially an effort carried out by all components of the Indonesian Nation which aims to increase awareness, willingness and ability to live healthy for everyone in order to realize the highest degree of public health, as an investment for the development of socially productive human resources and economical. The success of health development is largely determined by the continuity between program and sector efforts, as well

Results: High knowledge increased positive attitude toward implementation of cold chain management (OR= 5.87; p= 0.061). High knowledge (OR= 2.17; p= 0.448) and positive attitude (OR= 2.69; p= 0.405) increased implementation of cold chain management, but they were statistically non-significant.

Conclusion: High knowledge and positive attitude increase implementation of cold chain management

Keywords: cold chain management, vaccine, knowledge, attitude

Correspondence:

Zulfiayu Sapiun. Department of Pharmacy, Health Polytechnics, Ministry of Health Gorontalo.Jl. Taman Pendidikan 36, Gorontalo 96123, Indonesia. Email: zulfiayu@poltekkesorontalo.ac.id. Mobile: 081244521639

as the continuity with efforts that have been carried out in the previous period.

The target of health development to be achieved in 2025 is an increase in the degree of public health, which is indicated by an increase in life expectancy, declining infant mortality rates, and maternal mortality rates, decreasing prevalence of under-nutrition in children under five. The Ministry of Health has drawn up a Strategic Plan (Renstra) that refers to the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019 which is part of the 2005-2025

Long-Term Development Plan for Health (RPJPK) 2005-2025.

Considering that maternal and child health is a top priority in health development in Indonesia (Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia, 2013), the government established Indonesian Health Ministry Regulation Number 42 year 2013 concerning about the implementation of immunization.

In 2013, the level of availability of drugs and vaccines reached 96.82%, an increase from the previous year which reached 92.5%. There is an improvement in the coverage of complete immunization which has increased from 41.6 percent (2007) to 59.2% (2013). Immunization coverage in Gorontalo was 80.6% (Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia, 2013).

But in addition to paying attention to the availability and coverage of vaccines, the government must pay attention to vaccine management to be in accordance with standards to maintain vaccine quality because after all the availability and coverage have achieved good results but vaccine quality is not good, the immunization has been declared a failure. This is evidenced by the emergence of several diseases that can be prevented by immunization (PD3I).

WHO recommended to maintain vaccine quality from the time the product is made to the time of delivery, ensure the vaccine is stored and distributed in temperature 2°-8°C (WHO, 2015).

Vaccine management in several countries is still experiencing sharing obstacles. Studies in India show that storing ineligible vaccines is detected in 10% of places. Although the majority of health workers have good knowledge, only 61.8% are able to apply it well (Rao et al., 2013). Studies in Malaysia show that the majority of general practitioners have a low attitude and concern for cold chain procedures (Azira 2013).

Studies in Cameroon show that despite having adequate facilities but monitoring has not been able to run well (Yakum, 2015).

Likewise, vaccine management in Indonesia. Carelessness in freezing is widely spread. The use of a vial monitor vaccine reduces this risk (Nelson et al., 2004). Studies in Purwakarta showed that the equipment and application of basic immunization vaccine cold chain by the immunization coordinator at the Purwakarta District Health Center are still not optimal in terms of quality and quantity (Gantina et al., 2017).

A study by Kairul and Udiyono (2016) at 12 health centers in Sarolangun, Jambi Province showed the same results.

Whereas studies in Makassar showed inadequate human resources (69%) and inadequate cold chain equipment in 25 health centers (56%). Of the five process components assessed there are still three problems: vaccine storage is still poor in 37 health centers (82.2%), temperature monitoring is still poor in 40 health centers (88.9%), and recording and reporting is lacking in 31 health centers (69%). The output component in the form of poor vaccine quality is found in four health centers (8.9%) in Makassar (Ryza and Rismayanti, 2017).

SUBJECTS AND METHOD

1. Study Design

This was a cross-sectional study conducted in district vaccine management research and 11 health centers in Boalemo District, in September 2018.

2. Population and Sample

The study population was all immunization managers who worked in pharmacy installations, health services, and community health centers in Boalemo District. A

sample of 34 health officers was selected purposively.

3. Study Variables

The dependent variable was implementation of cold chain management. The independent variables were knowledge and attitude.

4. Operational Definition of Variables

Knowledge was the knowledge of officers about managing cold chain management.

Good knowledge was high if score $\geq 75\%$.

Attitude was a thought, tendency and feeling of the vaccine manager about vaccine (cold chain management). Attitude was stated as positive if score $\geq 75\%$.

The application of cold chain management was the compatibility between vaccine management in health services and the standards set by WHO. Health service facilities are stated to have good cold chain application $\geq 50\%$.

Table 1. Sample characteristics

Characteristics	Category	n	%
Age (year)	20-29	9	26.5
	30-39	15	44.1
	40-49	8	23.5
	50-59	2	5.9
Gender	Male	11	32.4
	Female	23	67.6
Educational Background	Senior high school	6	17.6
	Diploma	14	41.2
	Bachelor	13	38.2
	Post Graduate	1	2.9
Knowledge field	Nurse	11	32.4
	Midwife	10	29.4
	Pharmacy	4	11.8
	Others	9	26.5
How long in charge of administering the vaccine(year)	<5	22	64.7
	5-10	9	26.5
	10-20	2	5.9
	>20	1	2.9
Attending training	Yes	13	38.2
	No	21	61.8
Use of Guidelines	Yes	26	76.5
	No	8	23.5
Concerned about Cold Chain Management Efforts	Yes	31	91.2
	No	3	8.8

5. Study Instrument

The questionnaire used was Azira (2013) questionnaire consisting of characteristic items, 10 knowledge items, and 11 attitude items with Cronbach's alpha 0.68-0.72.

Whereas observational use fridge inspection forms, and thermometers. Vaccine storage inspection is a type of refrigerator, refrigerator designation for vaccines, the presence of a thermometer, and temperature monitoring using a temperature card.

6. Data Analysis

The data in univariate analysis were described in n and %. Bivariate analysis was conducted by Chi square.

RESULTS

1. Univariate analysis

Sample characteristics of this study can be seen in Table 1.

2. Bivariate analysis

Table 2. Relationships between knowledge and attitude

Knowledge	Attitude		OR	p
	Positive (%)	Negative (%)		
High	22 (88.0 %)	3 (12.0 %)	5.87	0.061
Low	5 (55.6 %)	4 (44.4 %)		

Table 2 showed the relationships between knowledge and attitude. Table 2 showed that high knowledge increased positive

attitude (OR= 5.87; p= 0.061), and it was marginally significant.

Table 3. Relationships between knowledge, attitude, and cold chain management

Independent variables	Cold chain management		OR	p
	Good (%)	Poor (%)		
Knowledge				
High	13 (52.0%)	12 (48.0%)	2.17	0.448
Low	3 (33.3%)	6 (66.7%)		
Attitude				
Postive	14 (51.9%)	13 (71.4 %)	2.69	0.405
Negative	2 (28.6%)	5 (48.1 %)		

Table 3 showed the relationships between knowledge, attitude, and cold chain management. Table 2 showed that high knowledge (OR= 2.17; p= 0.448) and positive attitude (OR= 2.69; p= 0.405) increased cold chain management, but they were statistically non-significant.

Education is important in influencing individual mind. Perry and Potter (2005) argue that education levels can increase knowledge about health. An educated person when encountering a problem will try to think of the best possible way to solve the problem. Through an educational process that involves a series of activities, an individual will gain better knowledge, understanding, expertise and insight. Tenure also affects productivity. Most of health officers worked as immunization officers for <5 years (64.7%).

As many as 61.8% health officers have not trained toward cold chain management. They follow the cold chain management guidelines.

DISCUSSION

1. Characteristics of Cold Chain Management Officers

Based on data that from 34 health officers, the majority of them were aged between 30 to 39 years (44.1%). It means that the majority of them are in the most productive period of work.

The majority of health officers are women (67.6%). Individual sex affects individual productivity. As many as 41.2% of health officers had diploma education and worked as nurse (32.4%). There is a positive and significant influence of educational variables on employee work productivity (Putri, 2016).

2. Knowledge toward Cold Chain Management

Knowledge is a result of curiosity through sensory processes, especially in the eyes and ears of certain objects. Knowledge is an important domain in the formation of open behavior (Donsu, 2017).

As many as 94.1% of health officers know that the optimal temperature for vaccines is 2-8° C. Most of health officers know that vaccines will break if frozen. They know that food and drink cannot be put together with vaccines. Vaccines cannot be put on the fridge door, transferring vaccine is needed if electricity is more than 72 hours. The vaccine will be damaged if exposed to heat, the response also agreed that the vaccine refrigerator cannot be placed near a source of heat (near sunlight, microwave, stove). But only 41.2% know that a thermometer must be placed at the bottom of the refrigerator. 76.5% knew that recording the temperature on a temperature card was needed. of all these items, an average knowledge of 80.6% was obtained or at a good level.

Vaccine managers who were participated in this study, 73.5% had high knowledge. This results are lower than a study conducted in Kelantan, Malaysia, which is 78.7% (Azira et al., 2013). Another study in Turkey reported that 96.3% midwives had high knowledge (Efe and Oncel, 2008).

3. Attitude toward cold chain management

79.4% of health officers have a positive attitude towards implementation of cold chain management. A study in China reported that health officers believe that vaccine management is important (96.7%) (Zhang et al., 1999). However this is not in line with research in Kelantan, Malaysia which found that managers' attitudes were not good. Most respondents have a negative attitude towards cold chain management and only 20% think that cold chain management is important (Azira et al., 2013). Based on observation from this study, only 50% of health service facilities were categorized as good. Ice lined Vaccine Refrigerator or freezer used by health center was TCW 3000 and TCWSDD (Dometic, 2014).

4. Implementation of cold chain management

Icelined Vaccine Refrigerator type TCW SDD is a refrigerator using solar power so that it can reduce the risk of temperature drop when the power goes out. The author find that maintenance is still lacking so that it can affect the effectiveness of the tool. Vaccine delivery practices in Boalemo District are in line with studies in Cameroon showing that although they have adequate facilities, monitoring has not been able to run well (Yakum, 2015).

A study in Purwakarta showed that the equipment and implementation of the basic immunization vaccine cold chain by the immunization coordinator at the Purwakarta District Health Center were still not optimal in terms of quality and quantity (Gantinia et al., 2017). A study by Kairul and Udiyono (2016) at 12 health centers in Sarolangun Regency, Jambi, showed the same results.

A study in Makassar showed inadequate human resources (69%) and inadequate cold chain equipment in 25 community health centers (56%). From assessment, the author found that 37 health centers had poor vaccine storage (82.2%) and 40 health centers had poor temperature monitoring.

5. Relationship between knowledge and cold chain management

The results of this study showed that high knowledge increased cold chain management, but it was statistically non-significant. The results of this study was in line with a study conducted in Malaysia. It reported that although health workers have high knowledge toward cold chain management, they do not implement it well (Azira et al., 2013).

6. Relationship between attitude with cold chain management

The results of this study showed that positive attitude increased cold chain manage-

ment, but it was statistically non-significant. Although the officer has a good attitude towards cold chain management but in its implementation it has no influence.

Different result was reported by Azira et al. (2013) in Malaysia. Their study showed that positive attitude improved implementation of cold chain management. This different result may be caused by the lack of supervision.

7. Relationship between knowledge and attitude towards cold chain management

The results of this study showed that high knowledge increased positive attitude, and it was marginally significant. The results of this study was in line with a study by Purnamasari (2010), which reported that there was a direct effect between knowledge on attitude towards cold chain management in health workers.

Positive attitude in health workers is supported by knowledge, education level, and tenure, so that their experience and skills add to their own insights and encourage themselves to behave better in their management (Wawan and Dewi, 2012).

The other study also reported that high knowledge improved positive attitude 5.87 times (OR= 5.87) (Pracoyo et al., 2013; Nurzia, 2018).

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that implementation of cold chain management increased with high knowledge and positive attitude.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Paulus Pangalo conducted the data collection and wrote the manuscript. Zulfiayu Sapiun, Misrawatie Goi, and Hartati collected the data. Wenny Ino Ischak run the data analysis and interpreted the results.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest.

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