

Leprosy and Its Elimination Challenges in Marudi District, Sarawak

Ruthashini

Marudi District Health Office, d/a Hospital Marudi, Marudi, Sarawak

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Leprosy is prevalent among the indigenous Penan population located in deep interiors between river basins in the Ulu Baram, Marudi District, and Sarawak. Strategy for disease elimination is through active case detections (ACD). It is performed annually through a 5-year elimination program (2015-2019). We aim to describe the ACDs performed in that period, its results and elimination challenges in Marudi District, Sarawak. **METHODS:** A cross sectional study of Marudi District, Sarawak involving 5-year surveillance data (2015-2019). Source of data is from manual and electronic surveillance system kept at Marudi District Health Office. Data was analysed and reported using descriptive analysis. **RESULTS:** The average incidence is 3.7 per 100,000 populations with a 5-year prevalence of 18.6 per 100,000 populations. 92% were males and 8% were females. Age ranges between 17-66 years with median 47 years old. 77% of the detected cases were multibacillary type and remaining 23% were paucibacillary. Total costs of ACDs were RM226,953. Among the cost by line items, 31.5% attributed to human resource, 66.6% to vehicle/boat rentals and 2.9% to consumable items. **DISCUSSION:** Leprosy is still endemic in interior parts of Marudi district, Sarawak. Low education level, lack of hygiene, malnutrition and poverty are the key determinants suspected for persistence of leprosy among the Penan ethnic minority. Significant cost and resources required to perform the tedious ACD strategy for disease elimination. **CONCLUSION:** Holistic approach targeting suspected key determinant of leprosy among the Penan ethnic minority must be adopted together with ACD activities for disease elimination strategy.

KEYWORDS: Leprosy, active case detection, Penan, elimination

Mental Health of Elderly Indonesian in One Person Household

Arwan Nugroho, Dra. Omas Bulan Samosir, PhD

Magister of Population and Employment Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: In 2010, the elderly population in Indonesia amounted to 5% of the total population and increased to 5.4% in 2015. The 2015-2045 Indonesian population projection results show that by 2035, the elderly population in Indonesia will be 10.6%. Elderly people who are prosperous, healthy, educated and productive will contribute to the acceleration of economic growth. At present, the world and Asia in particular, including Indonesia, are experiencing demographic dynamics that can increase the prevalence of one person households. The elderly population compared to other age groups is very biologically and mentally prone due to the continuous ageing process which is characterised by a decrease in physical endurance and susceptibility to disease attacks. The purpose of this study was to determine the mental health of elderly people in one person households in Indonesia. **METHODS:** This study used data from the results of the Indonesian Happiness Level Survey (SPTK) 2017 and was analysed using a binary logistic regression model. **RESULTS:** The elderly population in one person households is less likely to be happy compared to non-one person households. The area of residence, occupation, level of education and income of the elderly population is positively associated with happiness for the elderly. The higher education and income, the happier. Older people who live in cities are happier than those who live in rural areas. **DISCUSSION:** Ageing support to increase the level of happiness of the elderly population should be based on living arrangements and increasing elderly-friendly facilities in rural areas.

KEYWORDS: Mental health, happiness, one person household, binary logistic regression