

Knowledge, attitude and practice towards tuberculosis and its predictive factors among indigenous population in Pos Hau, Gua Musang, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Tuberculosis remains one of the main health concerns affecting indigenous populations in Malaysia. Pos Hau, Gua Musang is facing a high tuberculosis burden with more than 50% of death cases involving tuberculosis positive patients. Studies on knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) toward tuberculosis among indigenous in Malaysia were lacking. This study aims to determine knowledge, attitude and practice toward tuberculosis and its predictors among indigenous population in Pos Hau, Gua Musang. **Materials and Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 114 indigenous in Pos Hau. A 35-item validated English version of tuberculosis KAP survey was used to collect data. Face-to-face interviews were carried out from May 21 to May 25 2023. The survey consisted of sociodemographic data and measured participants' KAP toward tuberculosis. Descriptive and linear regression statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 21. **Results:** Majority of participants were females (53.5%), unemployed (62.5%) and had no formal education (47.9%). About 81.3% denied history of contact with tuberculosis patients. The overall mean score of knowledge was 40.76 (32.68), attitude 11.94 (11.51), and practice 23.47 (14.51). The predictive factors of knowledge were formal education ($B=20.401$; 95% CI: -22.998, 3.630, $p<0.001$) and married status ($B=11.135$; 95% CI: -0.115, 22.385, $p=0.052$). The predictive factors of attitude were had history of contact with confirmed tuberculosis cases ($B=5.133$; 95% CI: -9.884, -0.382, $p=0.034$) and younger age ($B=-0.132$; 95% CI: -0.260, -0.004, $p=0.043$). The predictive factors of practice were had history of contact with confirmed tuberculosis cases ($B=-7.007$; 95% CI: -12.972, -1.042, $p=0.022$) and formal education ($B=7.575$; 95% CI: 2.939, 12.211, $p=0.002$). **Conclusion:** Overall, knowledge and practices toward tuberculosis were rather good, but attitude was poor. The predictors of knowledge, attitude and practice were younger age, formal education, married status and had history of contact with confirmed tuberculosis cases. Effective educational programs and awareness raising campaigns should be consistently in place to improve the knowledge, attitude, and practice toward tuberculosis among this special indigenous population.