

THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN LOWERING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THROUGH THE HEALTHY COMMUNITY MOVEMENT PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

Background: In 2015, the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as Stroke, Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), Diabetes Cancer and Hypertension ranked highest in Indonesia due to changes in community lifestyle. Therefore, since 2016 the Ministry of Health 2016 launched a healthy living community movements program (GERMAS). This study aimed to determine the role and function of community health workers (CHWs) in lowering the prevalence of NCDs through the healthy community movement program.

Subjects and Method: This was a qualitative study conducted at community health center of Sako, Palembang, South Sumatera from December to February 2017. Seven key informants were selected for this study including the CHWs and community members. The data were collected by in-depth interview, focus group discussion (FGD), and direct observation. The data analysis employed Hendrick L. Blum theory of health.

Results: The CHWs had implemented the GERMAS activities regularly. However, they expressed the need for training to improve their knowledge in NCDs. The CHWs also faced difficulty in the provision of regular health examination, because the community member had poor access to the health care facilities. Community members only consumed limited amount of fruit and vegetable routinely due to financial barrier.

Conclusion: There is the need for training of CHWs to enhance their knowledge in NCDs, in order to improve the effectiveness of GERMAS in lowering NCDs.

Keywords: non-communicable disease, community health worker, healthy community movement

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