

A Cross-Sectional Study of Parents' Knowledge, Attitude, and Health-Seeking Behaviour Towards Childhood Tuberculosis during COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons Learned from Indonesia

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Abstract : Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading causes of death in the world. Fear of COVID-19 has made people reluctant to visit health facilities, leading to disruptions to childhood TB control programs, which may increase household transmission and delay diagnosis and treatment. This study aimed to describe parents' knowledge, attitudes, and health-seeking behaviour towards childhood TB during the COVID-19 pandemic. This cross-sectional study was performed on 392 parents with TB children in three provinces with the highest proportion of TB cases in Indonesia. This study was conducted from February to December 2022. The inclusion criteria of respondents were parents with a child aged 0-14 years old with TB diagnosis who live with their parents. Data were collected using the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) survey guidelines from the World Health Organization and analyzed descriptively, as well as Spearman's correlation. Overall, 392 parents of children with TB had poor knowledge (51.8%) including about causes, risk factors, transmission, symptoms, treatment, and prevention, which about 52.3%, 55.1%, 61.2%, 69.6%, 100%, 59.2%, respectively. Parents' health service-seeking behaviour towards Child TB was not normally distributed ($P < 0.05$) with knowledge test results (.000) and Seeking Health Services (.000). Health-seeking behaviour of parents in pediatric TB care was self-medication or self-treatment (86.2%), Traditional health seeking behaviour (4.8%), and modern health seeking behaviour (8.9%). The correlation between knowledge and seeking health services ($\text{Sig} = .609$) means there is no correlation between knowledge about TB and parents' health-seeking behaviour. Furthermore, 60.2% of the respondents would be shocked if their child had TB. More than half of the families in this study have poor knowledge and did self-medication or self-treatment regarding health-seeking behaviour for TB disease. Therefore, health workers, especially nurses, must provide TB-related education and health promotion and emphasize the importance of early detection. Health workers can also optimize their role in caring for and providing care to patients by increasing their trust in health workers, which will impact health-seeking behaviour in the future.

Keywords : attitude, child, health seeking behaviour, knowledge, tuberculosis

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