

Cub Scout Leader Gathering for Zoonoses Awareness: A model for Community Participatory Program for Zoonotic Diseases Control in Indonesia

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INTRODUCTION

Outbreaks of zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza and rabies during the last decade have caused fatalities and fear among people in Indonesia. The Government of Indonesia, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as other international and domestic NGOs have been working together to control those diseases and prevent human pandemic. However, the zoonotic disease control programs will not succeed without active participation of local communities including young people.

Indonesia Scout Movement (Gerakan Pramuka) is a non-formal educational organization having more than 20 million members that serve educational process outside the school and outside the family using basic principles and methods of scouting (GOI 2010). Members of Gerakan Pramuka consist young people of different age categories namely Cub Scouts/Siaga (ages 7 to 10 y.o), Scouts/Penggalang (ages 11 to 15 y.o), Rover Scouts/Penegak (ages 16 to 20 y.o), Pandega (ages 21 to 25 y.o), and Adult members/Pembina (ages > 25 y.o, or married person).

Nowadays, Gerakan Pramuka has more than 20 millions members distributed in all districts in Indonesia, and thus may become a potential media to enhance young people awareness on zoonotic diseases control programs. Dissemination of information on the diseases and its prevention can be done through scout regular events such as Pesta Siaga (Cub Scout Gathering), Jamboree (Scout Gathering), Raimuna (Rover Scout Gathering), and Karang Pamitran (Adult Scout member Gathering).

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, IPB, in collaboration with IPB Student Scouting Activity Unit, has developed a model for the community participatory program for zoonotic diseases control in Indonesia through scouting activities. Cub Scout Leader Gathering for Avian Influenza Awareness is a scout event that designed as a

method for dissemination of information regarding prevention of avian influenza transmission to school age children and their relatives.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One day Scout Gathering for cub scout troop leaders for zoonoses awareness was conducted with procedure referred to Kwarnas (1998):

- Participants represented scout groups from sub-district in the urban area of Bogor City (157 cub scouts) and the rural area of Bogor Regency (201 cub scouts).
- Mentoring using various scouting techniques "learning by playing activities" for cub scout, such as singing, role plays, puzzles, and demonstration of good personal hygiene practices to prevent AI transmission
- Cub scout leaders disseminate two key messages for prevention of Avian Influenza (AI) infection in human to their scout/school friends and families with their own creative's ways: **Wash the hands using soap and running water after playing and before eating** **Consume well-cooked poultry products**
- Evaluation of dissemination progress : Number of receivers (school friends & family), understanding, as well as scout group creativity in information delivery methods (Fig 3)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the assessment showed a total of 4,245 persons (3,098 non-participant scouts/students and 1,147 relatives) in Bogor City received information on AI prevention. In average each participant conveyed information to 27 persons. The interview showed 91% of the respondents in Kota Bogor have good understanding (interview score >60%) on the messages conveyed by the participants. Slightly lower achievements were recorded among

participants from Bogor Regency.

In this area, 3,152 persons consist of 1,875 non-participant scouts/students and 1,277 participants' relatives have received information with average dissemination ration 1:15.7. There was only 73% of the respondents in Bogor Regency understand well the messages conveyed by the participants (Figures 1 & 2). Such discrepancy may be associated with wider geographical distribution of scout groups in Bogor Regency that become an obstacle in coordination of the activity. The Overall achievements exceeded our expectation, i.e. the dissemination ration of 1:15 with 60% of respondents having good understanding on AI control messages.

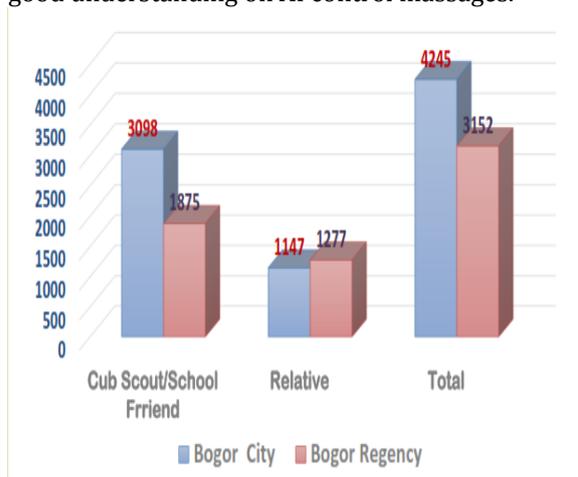


Fig 1. Number of scout and their relatives receiving information from the cub scout leaders

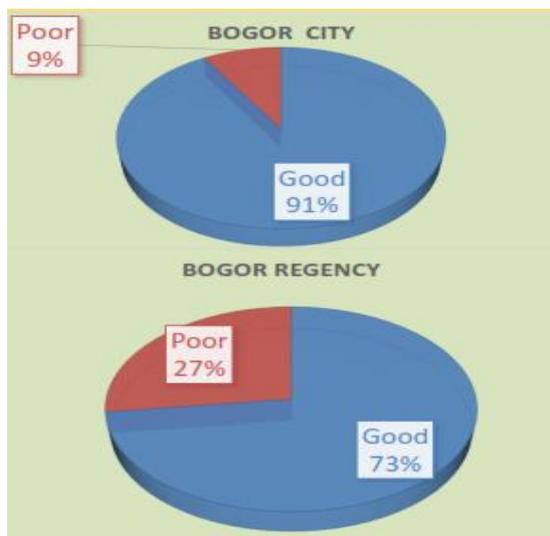


Fig 2. Level of understanding among scout and their relatives who received information from the cub scout leaders

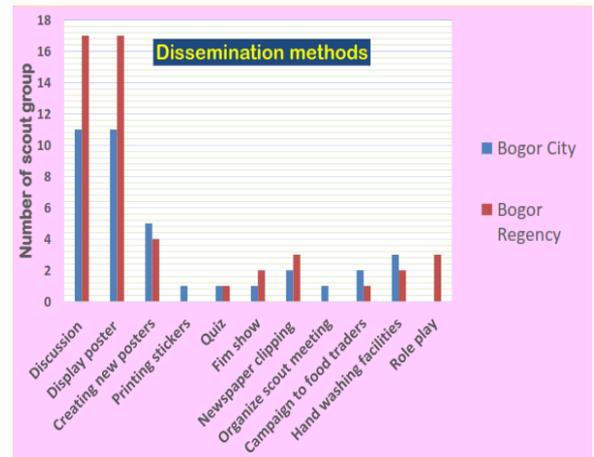


Fig 3. Methods used by scout groups to disseminate two key messages of AI prevention

Participatory activities of boy scout organisations activities in promoting family health programs were demonstrated in a number of countries, e.g. USA (Maxwell *et al.* 2017). Bandura (2004) suggest that health promotion must be structured as a part of a societal commitment that makes the health of its youth a matter of high priority. Health promotion should operate together with the home, the community, and the society at large including scout organization.

CONCLUSION

Cub scout leader gathering for avian influenza awareness facilitated rapid dissemination of AI control messages to school children and their relatives. This model can be replicate and implemented to support other neglected tropical diseases control programs in Indonesia.

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