

Leprosy Patients in public perception: A qualitative study of patient confidence (dis) in the Community

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ABSTRACT

Leprosy is a disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae. Data shows that in East Java is still widely spread in the district leprosy including Psychology. The purpose of the research is to explore the public acceptance of leprosy patients in the Work Area of the Kampak Trenggalek Regency Community Health Center. This study uses qualitative data approach taking the sample using purposive sampling technique. This data was taken with in-depth interviews and observations in communities around the area of lepers at Puskesmas Kampak Trenggalek Regency covering lepers family, neighbors, co-workers and community leaders as well as lepers themselves. The results showed that patients with leprosy many changes towards a negative self-concept. While some informants did not receive and accept leprosy patients in the community.

I. Introduction

At this time, the phenomenon that we often encounter among some communities is that many members of the community cannot accept leprosy sufferers to mix because the problems caused are very complex, resulting in misunderstandings in the community regarding leprosy. In fact, community acceptance plays a very important role in creating motivation to recover and live independently for leprosy sufferers. Therefore, the community must be able to have a positive attitude or accept leprosy sufferers well to become part of its members. Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by leprosy germs (Mycobacterium Leprae) which primarily attacks the peripheral nerves and secondarily attacks the skin and others except the central nervous system. If not handled properly and correctly, the disease This will continue and can cause disability (Supari, Siti Fadilah. 2008).

That is why society finds it difficult or even impossible to accept leprosy sufferers in society, therefore causing leprosy sufferers to experience disturbances in their self-concept. Self-concept itself is a person's image of themselves or their assessment of themselves (KBBI, 2008).

Leprosy occurs because a person's immune system is low and supported by a dirty environment and a lack of understanding of the early symptoms of leprosy. This disease is transmitted from untreated wet leprosy sufferers to others through breathing or prolonged skin contact. But it all depends on each person's immune system. Leprosy is an infectious disease that causes complex problems that are not only health problems but also social, cultural, economic, security and national resilience, therefore that is what causes leprosy sufferers to often be ostracized by society. Knowledge, perception, attitudes and behavior of society have a major role in the process of accepting leprosy sufferers. Here the role of society in the health sector is to provide encouragement and motivation to leprosy sufferers so that leprosy sufferers Trenggalek which includes families of leprosy sufferers, neighbors, co-workers and community leaders as well as leprosy sufferers themselves.

II. Methods

This research uses a qualitative data approach which taking the sample using purposive sampling technique, consisting of 11 (eleven) informants. The data was taken with interview in-depth and observation of the community around the leprosy sufferer area in the Kampak District Health Center

work area Trenggalek which includes families of leprosy sufferers, neighbors, co-workers and community leaders as well as leprosy sufferers themselves.

III. Results and Discussion

The results presented must be sequential from the main results to the supporting results. Use units of measurement based on applicable international standards. You can add diagrams, tables, pictures, and graphs by completing them with narration.

1. The Respondent Characteristics

The following table, table 1, shows the frequency distribution of the learner characteristics based on the age education, occupation, and descriptions in Table 1.

Table 1. The Characteristics

No.	Characteristics	ΣN	$\Sigma \%$
1	Gender		
	Male	5	45
	Women	6	55
2	Age		
	20-40th	7	64
	41-60th	4	36
3	Education		
	SD	3	27
	SMP	1	10
	SMA	5	45
	PT	2	18
4	Work		
	Motherhousehold	3	27
	Private	7	64
	PNS	1	10
Total		11	100

Source: Data analysis results, 2015

The results of the study showed that of the 11 informants, most of the informants, 7 people, were in the age range of 20-40 years and the remaining 4 people were in the age range of 41-60 years. As many as 6 informants are female and 5 others are male. There are 3 people with elementary school education, 1 person with junior high school education, 5 people with high school education, and 2 people with college education. There is 1 person who works as civil servants, 7 people work in the private sector, and 3 people are housewives.

2. The Self-Concept of Leprosy Sufferers

From the results of research on the self-concept of leprosy sufferers, one of the leprosy sufferers that I studied experienced a change in his self-concept, one of the leprosy sufferers tended to be less confident and rarely socialized with neighbors like other people.

The facts in question are in accordance with the theory put forward by Kartono (1985) that less than perfect physical conditions give rise to a minimum complex in the concept of self, namely low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence and feeling that one always fails in all matters so that one never has the courage to act, becomes discouraged, one's ambition is destroyed and even one's courage is completely lost because one is always overshadowed by fear.

The researcher's opinion in this case is that the self-concept of leprosy sufferers is indeed not good, this is due to many factors including lack of self-acceptance with their new body condition, lack of motivation from family, society and close friends, and the existence of negative prejudices in other people responding to their new presence. By knowing the causal factors, it is hoped that families and the surrounding community or co-workers must be able to accept the presence of leprosy sufferers with their new condition well, so that the self-concept of leprosy sufferers improves again. and can carry out his new daily life as he did before he was sick.

3. Knowledge of Leprosy Patients' Families and Society

The results of the study showed that one of the families of leprosy sufferers had extensive knowledge about leprosy. While another family of leprosy sufferers did not know the true meaning of leprosy. In the community, the majority of informants only knew a little about the meaning of leprosy as an infectious disease, but did not know the true meaning of leprosy. There was only one informant from the community who had more knowledge about leprosy, so that the informant knew leprosy correctly.

The fact is in accordance with the theory of Poerwodarminto (1999) and Fisbein - Ajzen (1975) which states that knowledge consists of education and experience. Education itself is one of the factors for taking action, the higher a person's education about something, the more correct the person's action.

The researcher's opinion in this case is that the lack of enthusiasm of the community to know the true meaning of leprosy is caused by the lack of information from health workers to the community so that the community only knows what leprosy is from word of mouth which cannot be guaranteed to be true, for that reason efforts are needed to introduce the true meaning of leprosy by means of Frequent socialization to the community so that public knowledge in understanding what leprosy is increases which is expected to make the community more able to accept leprosy sufferers to blend in with their community better, because good community acceptance of leprosy sufferers will motivate leprosy sufferers to recover and live independently again in the community

4. Perception of Leprosy Patients' Families and Society

From the results of the study on the perception of families of leprosy sufferers, it was found that the entire family of leprosy sufferers showed sympathy for their family members who were experiencing illness. While for the majority of society, it describes a less correct perception, such as in the 7 informants that I studied, there were 6 informants who were wrong in prescribing leprosy sufferers so that leprosy sufferers were often ostracized in society, but among the informants there was 1 informant who already had a very correct perception of leprosy sufferers who were finally able to accept leprosy sufferers in the community.

The facts in question are in accordance with Salim's theory (1996) that perception is a person's assessment of shame, something embarrassing, something that makes the person who is assessed feel inferior, ashamed and afraid because of their imperfect physical condition.

The researcher's opinion in this case is that the perceptions surrounding leprosy sufferers are very diverse. Factors underlying the differences in perception include the level of information or knowledge. that the community around them gets about Leprosy. It is indeed quite difficult to change the public's perception, from the wrong perception about Leprosy to the right perception of Leprosy sufferers, therefore various sources of in-depth and frequent explanations about Leprosy are needed so that gradually the community can change their perception from the wrong to the good perception of Leprosy sufferers. Because without that, it is impossible for the perception that deviates from the line of truth in society about Leprosy to be straightened out again.

5. Attitudes of Leprosy Sufferers' Families and Society

The attitude of the family members of leprosy sufferers shows a good attitude towards their family members who are suffering from the disease. This is proven by the fact that the family members of leprosy sufferers always accompany their sick family members for treatment with great care and also with patience. take care of it. To attitude The community in this study showed an inappropriate attitude in responding to leprosy sufferers in their daily lives, although there was a small portion of residents who were able to have a positive attitude towards leprosy sufferers.

The fact is in accordance with Notoatmodjo's theory (2007), namely that attitudes clearly show the connotation of the suitability of reactions to certain stimuli. In everyday life, it is an emotional reaction to social stimuli. Newcomb, a psychology expert, stated that attitude is a readiness or willingness to act, and not an implementer of motives. certain. Attitude is not yet an action or activity, but rather an interpretation of an action or behavior. Attitude is still an open reaction to open behavior. It can be further noted that attitude is a reaction to an object in a certain environment as an appreciation of the object. If an object in the environment is not like most other objects, usually a

person will have a bad attitude towards the object.

The opinion of the researcher in this case is that a person's behavior can be seen from the person's attitude, if the person's attitude is bad, then his behavior tends to be bad too. And it is known that residents have a bad attitude towards leprosy sufferers even though some residents have a good attitude. The community around leprosy sufferers shows a bad attitude, some people have a bad attitude towards leprosy sufferers, this is because some people are still influenced by the myth of the past that leprosy is a cursed disease that must be kept away and talk from people about the wrong way of transmitting leprosy.

6. Behavior of Leprosy Sufferers' Families and Society

From the results of research on the behavior of families of leprosy sufferers, it shows that family members of leprosy sufferers can accept one of their family members who is sick well, as proven by the patient's patient accompanying the patient for treatment and also patiently caring for the patient. While in society The majority have not yet shown good acceptance of leprosy sufferers, as evidenced by the majority of people not wanting to invite leprosy sufferers when they have a thanksgiving event at their house and not wanting to shake hands or touch leprosy sufferers when they meet leprosy sufferers.

The fact is in accordance with the theory of Louis Thurstone, Rensis Likert and Charles Osgood (2000) according to them behavior is a form of evaluation or reaction of feelings. This means that a person's attitude towards an object is a feeling of support or siding (favorable) or a feeling of not supporting or not siding (unfavorable) on the object. Usually feelings of support occur when there is a similarity with what is generally and feelings of not supporting because there is a change or difference between the object and what is generally.

According to the researcher's opinion in this case, the behavior of residents around the house of leprosy sufferers has different behaviors. There are many informants who behave rejecting the presence of leprosy sufferers mingling in society because of a mistake in understanding leprosy, but there are also those who behave accepting leprosy sufferers well and correctly because they already understand the meaning of leprosy. It is indeed quite difficult to change the behavior of accepting leprosy sufferers in the community, therefore socialization is needed from health workers about leprosy so that the community can understand leprosy correctly and can accept the presence of leprosy sufferers again in society.

IV. Conclusion

hasdone to obtain self-conceptleprosy sufferer experiencechanges, the changes that occur are changes to the negative side. Leprosy sufferers feel less confident and awkward in socializing in society with their new condition. That's whatmake sufferer Leprosybecome closed inhis daily life.

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, it was found that informants who are family members of leprosy sufferers tend to have more knowledge about leprosy, considering that the family always takes care of their family members who are experiencing the disease. Informants who are members of the community or neighbors whose houses are close to leprosy sufferers have varying knowledge - some have extensive knowledge and some have less knowledge about the actual leprosy disease, this occurs considering the lack of socialization by the Health Center or other health workers to the community about the meaning of leprosy itself.

The perceptions held by families of leprosy sufferers in this study showed a high level of sympathy for their members. his family who is suffering from Leprosy. While in society the perception of Leprosy sufferers varies greatly - there is a small part of society that perceives Leprosy sufferers well, but it cannot be denied that the majority of people who are informants perceive Leprosy as a frightening infectious disease and sufferers need to be kept away.

Whichstatus of family of leprosy sufferers have a good attitude towards leprosy sufferers. Meanwhile, the attitude of the community that becomes in formant,from studygot various results—such as a small portion of society can be kind to leprosy sufferers, but it cannot be denied that the majority of people who are informants discriminate against leprosy sufferers.

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