

Virtual Outreach (VO) as an Effort to Increase VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing) Coverage at PSP (Female Sex Workers) In Semarang Regency

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Abstract: The high number of HIV / AIDS cases in Indonesia requires the role of all parties to reduce the infection of the disease, one of the efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV / AIDS is to increase the coverage of VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing). The program aims to increase VCT coverage by using VO (virtual outreach). The method used in the activity uses the PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) model, namely by involving all field officers at the Sokoguru Foundation through providing education and training to increase capacity in conducting VO. As a result of this activity, there was a significant difference (p value < 0.05) in terms of the knowledge of trainees before and after being given this education and training. In conclusion, the Sokoguru Foundation, which oversees field officers, can routinely increase the capacity of its field officers to conduct virtual outreaches as an alternative in conducting outreach to the Key population.

Abstrak: Tingginya kasus HIV/AIDS di Indonesia membutuhkan peranan semua pihak untuk menurunkan jangkitan penyakit tersebut, salah satu upaya untuk menekan penularan HIV/AIDS adalah dengan meningkatkan cakupan VCT (*Voluntary Counselling and Testing*). Program ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan cakupan VCT dengan menggunakan VO (*virtual outreach*). Metode yang digunakan dalam kegiatan menggunakan model PRA (*Participatory Rural Appraisal*) yaitu dengan melibatkan semua petugas lapangan pada Yayasan Sokoguru melalui pemberian pendidikan dan pelatihan untuk meningkatkan kapasitas dalam melakukan VO. Hasil dari kegiatan ini terdapat perbedaan yang signifikan (p value $< 0,05$) dalam hal pengetahuan peserta pelatihan sebelum dan sesudah diberikan pendidikan dan pelatihan ini. Kesimpulannya Yayasan Sokoguru yang membawahi petugas Lapangan bisa rutin dalam meningkatkan Kapasitas petugas lapangannya untuk melakukan virtual outreach sebagai alternatif dalam melakukan penjangkauan pada populasi Kunci.

INTRODUCTION

HIV/AIDS is still one of the problems of infectious diseases in the world, including in Indonesia, data in June 2019 of HIV/ AIDS sufferers in Indonesia amounted to 349,883 people spread in 33 provinces Throughout Indonesian. One of the regions in Indonesia



details 17,559 cases of HIV and 12,906 cases of AIDS. The high number of HIV/AIDS cases in Central Java is of course supported by the high number of cases in some region regency and city, among others regency Semarang.

Semarang Regency is an area in Central Java Province that has an increasing number of HIV / AIDS cases from year to year, based on the report of the Semarang Regency AIDS Control Commission (KPA), there was an increase in HIV / AIDS cases from 2006 to 2019 a total of 800 cases, and in 2019 alone 96 cases were found with 66% suffered by men. The high number of HIV/AIDS cases in men will be a way of transmission in their sex partners, both their legal wives and female sex workers (Caswell 2019).

Female sex workers are a key population in HIV/AIDS transmission along with other key populations such as LSL (Male Sex Men) and Transvestites. As a key population of female sex workers must receive serious attention in efforts to prevent and overcome HIV/AIDS, one of the efforts promoted by the government in preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS is the VCT (*Voluntary Counselling and Testing*) Program or voluntary counselling and testing. VCT is a program carried out to find out a person's HIV/ AIDS status, by knowing their HIV/ AIDS status, treatment and prevention of transmission efforts can be carried out immediately (Felix 2013).

Data on VCT participation in female sex workers in Semarang Regency decreased in the months after the Covid-19 pandemic, both in direct female sex workers (PSPL) and indirect female sex workers (PSPTL) even according to sources from the Sokoguru Foundation in August 2020 there were only 9 PSPL people and 51 PSPTL people who participated in the *Voluntary Counselling and Testing* (VCT) program (David 1999).

Efforts to increase VCT participation carried out by field officers on direct PSPs and indirect PSPs have encountered obstacles amid the Covid-19 pandemic, because the implementation of social *distancing* (*Social Distancing*) promoted by the government as an effort to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 disease is still ongoing, this makes field officers have no flexibility in outreach of female sex workers. ⁽⁸⁾ Virtual Outreach is one of the answers to conduct virtual outreach so that field officers still have the opportunity to invite PSP to do VCT, but the lack of knowledge and skills in field officers in conducting *virtual outreach* makes this program not run optimally (Pontikes and Hannan 2014).

METHODS

The method that will be used qualitatively with the Community Partnership Program process is participatory Rural Appraisal, which is a method of approach in the process of empowering and increasing community participation, by emphasizing community involvement in the overall activity. PRA is a set of techniques to empower communities to analyze, develop and gain knowledge about local life, circumstances and resources to plan and act better. Stage I is carried out at the key *opinion leader* (KOL) level, namely community leaders from both government and non-government elements, their existence is needed as local facilitators and coaches. This component includes the government and puskesmas officers, the Sokoguru Foundation Trustee, the Chairman of the Sokoguru Foundation and the teams in it and other community components. The purpose of this phase I preparation is from the formation of cadre targets to the training stage for the community. Phase II preparation is an empowerment stage at the program implementation level, in this case field officers who will conduct outreach

virtually as an effort to increase VCT program participation in female sex workers. Preparation for phase III is monitoring and evaluating the planning that has been made and the implementation of activities that have been carried out, including the evaluation of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of field officers towards increasing the participation of female sex workers in the VCT program. By using the precede and proceed model (Calvillo 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of community service activities in order to increase the capacity of field officers from the Sokoguru Foundation to conduct *Virtual Outreach* and as an Effort to Increase *Voluntary Counselling and Testing* (VCT) Coverage among Female Sex Workers (PSP) in Semarang Regency has been carried out with the result of increasing knowledge among field officers in the field of *virtual outreach*.

The stages carried out to find out the increase in knowledge of field officers by providing *pre-tests* before the intervention, then given interventions by providing training on *virtual outreach*, after being given training and then field officers are given a *post-test* to see changes in knowledge after being given interventions with the following results:

Table 1. Field officer *pre-test* results before being given training

		Fre qu en cy	Perc ent	Valid Perce nt	Cumu lative Perce nt
Val id	30.00	3	13.0	13.0	13.0
	40.00	10	43.5	43.5	56.5
	50.00	8	34.8	34.8	91.3
	60.00	2	8.7	8.7	100.0

Total	23	100.	100.0
		0	

Table 2. *Post-test* results of field officers after being given training

		Fre qu en cy	Perce nt	Valid Perce nt	Cum ulati ve Perc ent
Val id	60.00	4	17.4	17.4	17.4
	70.00	13	56.5	56.5	73.9
	80.00	6	26.1	26.1	100. 0
Total	23	100.0	100.0		

Table 3. Results of statistical description of intervention to field officers

	N	Mini mu m	Maxi mum	Mea n	Std. Devi atio n
Pre- test	23	30.0 0	60.00	43.9 130	8.38 783
Post- test	23	60.0 0	80.00	70.8 696	6.68 312
Valid N (listw ise)	23				

From table 1 above the lowest score at the time of the field officer's pre-test was 30 points and the highest score at the time of the pre-test was 60 points, the average score when given the pre-test was 43.91 with a standard deviation of 8.38. (*Pre-Test*). In table 2. *post-test* there was a change in the results of the value of field officers after being given intervention, namely from 23 field officers the minimum value obtained was 60 points and the maximum value was 80 points, the average

score obtained by field officers was 70.89 points after being given training, with a standard deviation of 6.68 (*Post-Test*). At the time of the pre-test, the most scores obtained by field officers were 40 (43.5%), and changed after being given

intervention with the most scores of 70 points (56.5%) (*Post-test*).

The increase in knowledge is known through the table of Wilcoxon statistical test results as follows:

Table 4. Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test Results

		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Post-test – Pre-test	Negative Ranks	0 ^a	.00	.00
	Positive Ranks	23 ^b	12.00	276.00
	Ties	0 ^c		
	Total	23		

a. Post-test < Pre test

b. Post-test > Pre test

c. Post-test = Pre test

Wilcoxon's statistical test results showed a *negative value* of rank 0 on the sample, *mean rank* and *sum of rank*, this shows that there are no samples whose values have decreased from the pre-test and also the post-test, meaning that all trainees experienced improved knowledge from the pre-test and *post-test*. The *positive ranks* showing the number 23 on N (sample) shows all participants experiencing an increase in value from pre-test to post-test, in *Mean Rank* showing the number 12, meaning that the average participant has increased by 12 points with the number of differences from pre-test to *post-test* of 276 points. The *ties* component shows a value of 0, meaning that there is no equal value in the *pre-test* and *post-test* results, all participants experience an increase in points.

Table 5. Test the meaningfulness of statistical results

	Post-test – Pre-test
Z	-4,283 ^b
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
a. Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test	
b. Based on negative ranks.	

On the results of the Asymp statistical test. Sig. (2-tailed) shows the number 0.000 (below p value: 0.05) meaning that there is a significant difference in the knowledge of field officers before being given treatment with training and after being given treatment with training, so it can be concluded that the training given to field officers has a positive impact on increasing their knowledge.

The results of field officers in managing targets have increased from before the partnership program was held and after the partnership program was pursued, this can be seen from the data reported by the Sokoguru Foundation as follows:

Table 6. Virtual outreach results during the period before and after the program

N o	Month Period	PSP reache d	PSP the VC T Test	HIV reactiv e PSP
1	July	219	144	1
2	August	216	154	4
3	Septembe r	253	182	0
4	October	356	121	2

Table 6 shows an increase in the number of female sex workers who were successfully targeted in outreaches carried out by field officers, from January to 219 people then increased in September to 253 and 256 in October 2022, the increase was also followed by the number of PSPs who visited health services and was the reason for the increase in the number of PSPs known to be HIV reactive to get treatment.

DISCUSSION

VCT is a program that is promoted in showing a person's HIV/AIDS status, and becomes an entry point in providing support and care for PLHIV (People with HIV/AIDS), to increase the coverage of VCT requires an active role from field officers, because the participation of field officers to key populations will increase the participation of key populations in visiting VCT Clinics (Lunnay, Ward, and Borlagdan 2011). Several research results show that the use of VCT services is still less than optimal, this is due to the ineffectiveness of communication between the components involved in it so that it is necessary to increase the socialization of VCT services to the wider community. Outreach field officers have a very important role in providing information, establishing

communication and providing education to the community, especially in key populations that have the potential to transmit HIV/AIDS in the community (Wang 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic some time ago has further reduced the coverage rate of field officers in overseeing the Assistance program for female sex workers as one of the key populations. Virtual outreach is a very effective means to assist field officers in reaching their targets. however, the lack of knowledge and ability of field officers in conducting virtual outreach makes this technique have obstacles when applied by field officers, these difficulties are found, especially in the use of gadgets both on field officers and PSP as targets including maximizing online technology, improvising new outreach methods and various other adjustments.

The Community Partnership Program (PKM) initiated by LPPM Muhammadiyah University Semarang in collaboration with the Sokoguru Foundation tries to provide interventions in the form of providing knowledge to field officers to increase knowledge about virtual outreach and measuring the effect of the training on increasing the capacity of outreach officers who take part in the program (Popa et al. 2021).

The results of the program in statistical analysis showed significant changes before training and after training (p value $0.000 < 0.05$) and all participants showed a very significant increase in knowledge and skills in conducting virtual outreach. Improving the skills of field officers is also able to increase the participation of PSPs in participating in the VCT program by visiting the VCT health service for consultations and also voluntary HIV/AIDS tests. When viewed from the report made by the Sokoguru Foundation in July 2022 PSP which visited the VCT service amounted to 219 and in mid-October it had reached

386 people, from a number of people who visited the VCT service there was also an increase in the number of people who tested for HIV/AIDS from 144 in June and in the middle of October there were already 121 people who did VCT, and will continue to increase until the following months (Iswanto et al. 2022).

The model of providing information, communication and education with the mentoring model does show effective results when compared to the model without being accompanied by mentoring, this is due to the role of the Companion who is very supportive in helping the target in overcoming every problem he faces The companion has a role to provide communication, information and education about new things, provide correction or justification for wrong concepts that owned by the target so as to be able to make behavioral changes in accordance with expectations. Community empowerment techniques in groups by including components that can be trusted by the target will be able to increase target participation as a result of openness and ease of communication so as to be able to change individual attitudes and behaviors. VO as one of the online meeting methods is the right method in reaching out amid the limitations of conducting in-person meetings and VO has proven effective in increasing target coverage and increasing the practice of visits to health services (Azis and Amalina 2021).

CONCLUSION

The education and training program promoted by LPPM Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang in collaboration with the Sokoguru Foundation to improve the knowledge and skills of field officers (Outreach) with the VO (Virtual Outreach)

technique brings very significant changes for field officers, it is hoped that in the future similar activities will be carried out so that the ability of field officers will continue to increase.

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