



Knowledge of HIV AIDS and Sexual Risk Transgender Women Behavior on Suburban City of Indonesia

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Abstract

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BACKGROUND: Transvestites are male sex-oriented women and look like women, transvestites physically want to look like women and psychologically identify themselves as women.

AIM: This study aimed to determine the relationship between knowledge about HIV AIDS and risky sexual behavior in transvestites.

METHODS: The research design used was Analytical Observational with a Cross-sectional Study approach. The number of samples of 103 people was selected by Purposive Sampling from all transvestites in Majene Regency. Retrieving data using knowledge questionnaires and risky sexual behavior. Data were analyzed using Fisher's Exact Test.

RESULTS: Average age of 25.33 years (SD = 4.43). Only about 13% had received university or higher education. The results of this study indicate that 33.0% with high-level knowledge categories and 67.0% categories of lower-level knowledgeable results showed a value of p: 0.007.

CONCLUSION: There is a relationship between knowledge about HIV AIDS and risky sexual behavior in transvestites with p: 0.007.

Introduction

In Indonesia, transsexuals or transvestites (Men) have not received recognition from the public because Indonesian state law only recognizes two sexes, namely, men and women [1]. Sex refers to the physical state of human reproduction. This causes transvestites not to get a place socially in the community so that transvestites are considered "deviant" by the community. From a psychological perspective, a transsexual is a form of sexual deviation both in the desire to get sexual satisfaction and the ability to achieve sexual satisfaction [2].

The sexual lifestyle of transvestites is reflected in sexual activities, such as changing partners, not using condoms, and having anal and oral sex [3]. This causes the lives of transgender women to be very vulnerable and at risk of psychological and sexual violence, thus impacting the possibility of transmission and spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and human Immuno Deficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV AIDS). Over the past decade, the prevalence of STIs, especially HIV infection, in the transgender community has reportedly increased significantly [2]. In 2011 the World Health Organization announced 34 million people had HIV that

causes AIDS, and most of them lived in poverty and developing countries [4].

Based on data from the Department of Disease Prevention and Control, Indonesian Ministry of Health in 2016, HIV AIDS cases in 2015 were 6,081 cases from the five highest provinces, namely Central Java 963 Cases, Bali 957 Cases, West Java 657 Cases, East Java 647 Cases, and East Kalimantan 254 cases, while HIV AIDS cases in 2016 increased by 7,491 cases from the five highest provinces, namely Central Java 1,402 cases, East Java 1,110 cases, Bali 882 cases, South Sulawesi 571 cases, DKI Jakarta 555 cases.

Judging from the prevalence of HIV AIDS in 2016, South Sulawesi was ranked 4th [5]. In Jakarta, the results of a mid-2015 seroprevalence survey of 241 transgender CSWs showed that HIV prevalence and early syphilis reached 22% and 19.3%. This is a significant improvement compared to the previous surveys [2]. Data for West Sulawesi Based on data from the Directorate General of P2P, Indonesian Ministry of Health in 2016, HIV AIDS cases in 2015 were 13 cases. In 2016, it increased to 22 HIV AIDS cases (Indonesian Ministry of Health 2016). From the Majene district service survey results in 2016, the number of HIV AIDS sufferers was five people, HIV as many as three people, and AIDS 2 people [6].

Research conducted by UNAIDS in 2013 concluded that male sex with men was the spread factor of the fastest HIV epidemic in the world. Global studies have found that transgender women are 50 times more likely to contract HIV than productive age couples. This concludes that transgender and transgender people are very vulnerable to HIV [7]. The deviation of sexual behavior in transgender people is to have a sexual lifestyle inherent in her that is influenced by the social and cultural environment and impacts her health. Preventive efforts play an important role in reducing the number of new HIV/AIDS infections [8]. Preventative measures can be through behavior change and reducing stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. In realizing this, it is necessary to increase the knowledge and awareness of the consequences or consequences of risky behavior [9]. Knowledge can improve one's understanding and influence decision-making [10]. Studies related to HIV/AIDS in populations at risk, such as commercial sex workers, male customers of WPS (Female Sex Workers), have been researched by many previous researchers.

In contrast, research for men who like men (MSM, gay and transgender) has not been conducted, especially in Majene Regency. Based on the interviews with several transvestites they said that there were around 40 transvestites in Majene District and noted that transgender people prefer to discuss sexual behavior. This raises the author's interest to find out how the relationship of knowledge about HIV AIDS with risky sexual behavior in transvestites.

Methods

This study uses quantitative research methods. The design of the study uses observational analytic with a cross-sectional Study approach. This research was carried out in Majene and surrounding districts in 2017 with some 103. Samples are taken by Purposive Sampling, which is based on the fulfilment of Criteria: Able to communicate well, someone who physically and mentally leads to women. The research questionnaire used is a questionnaire of characteristics (age and education), knowledge, and behavior of respondents. Data analysis was univariate and bivariate analysis using the Chi-square test, and the significance level was $p < 0.05$.

Results

As shown in Table 1, the average age of 25.33 years (SD = 4.43). Only about 13% had received university or higher education. The results of this study

Table 1: Characteristics of respondents

Variable	Total (n = 103)
Mean Age (M ± SD)	(25.33 ± 4.43)
Education	
Junior high or lower	67%
Senior high	23%
College or higher	13%
Level Knowledge	
High	33.0%
Lower	67.0%
Behavior	
Risk	72.8%
No Risk	27.2%

indicate that 33.0% with high-level knowledge categories and 67.0% categories of lower-level knowledge. This proves that most of the respondents do not know the understanding, causes, modes of transmission, symptoms, and ways to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Analysis of the relationship between knowledge of HIV AIDS and risky sexual behaviors in transvestites showed that 14.6% of the respondents who had high-level knowledge of non-risk sexual behavior, 18.4% had high-level knowledge of risky sexual behavior, and 75.0% respondents with lower-level knowledge and behavior are at risk for HIV AIDS. The analysis of the relationship between the two variables above using the SPSS statistical test shows the significance of the relationship between the two variables using the Chi-square test ($p = 0.007$), the results of this study have a significant relationship between knowledge about HIV AIDS with risky sexual behavior in transgender (Table 2).

Table 2: Relationship between knowledge and behavior (n = 103)

Variable	Behavior		Chi-square
	Risk	No-Risk	
Level Knowledge			0.007
High	18.4%	14.6%	
Lower	75.0%	12.6%	

Discussion

The results of this study prove that the level of education is not following the existing theory, which states that the higher the level of education of a person, the easier it is for someone to receive information. With higher education, someone will get information from other people and the mass media. One factor that plays a role in knowledge is education, whether formal or non-formal education. Knowledge is much influenced by formal education, so knowledge is closely related to education.

The results of this study indicate that respondents with non-risk behavior as many as 27.2% and respondents with risk behaviors for HIV AIDS as many as 72.8%. This proves that almost all respondents have had sexual relations following this "Deviance of sexual behavior in transgender people is to have a sexual lifestyle inherent in him which is influenced by the social and cultural environment around him and impacts his health. Sociological factors cause the factor of behavior

change in transgender. These environmental influences impact changes in sexual behavior in transgender women with HIV/AIDS risk" [2]. According to the theory of Lawrence Green that behavior is formed by several factors [11]: 1). Predisposing factors that are manifested in knowledge, attitude, and accountability 2). Supporting factors manifest in the physical environment, the availability of facilities or infrastructure, 3) reinforcement factors displayed in attitudes and behavior.

The problem that arises in this study is that there were 25.0% who were well-informed but had risky sexual behavior. This study is the same as the results of a survey from Kumalasari (2014), which showed that there were 24 (42.1%) students who were knowledgeable about engaging in premarital sexual behavior [12]. This is very contrary to the existing theory. The higher the knowledge, the lower the premarital sexual behavior; on the contrary, the lower the knowledge, the higher the premarital sexual behavior [13]. Several factors, including environmental factors, can influence this. Based on the research results of Rahmayani *et al.* (2014), there was a significant relationship between the level of knowledge and the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission in transgender in the city of Padang [14]. This proves that the respondents already understand enough to prevent HIV/AIDS. A good level of knowledge is felt to play an important role in the prevention of HIV/AIDS [15]. Knowledge of HIV status is relatively high in eastern Europe and Central Asia, but treatment coverage and viral suppression are alarmingly low [16].

Transgender is one of the high-risk groups that spread HIV/AIDS; its existence is quite worrying because of the activities inherent in their daily lives [17]. Sexual activity in transgender sex workers is considered high risk because they have many male sexual partners. Most likely, their partners also have many other male sexual partners, both married/unmarried men [14].

Conclusion

The conclusion of the study is that respondents with a low understanding of HIV/AIDS are quite high, namely, 67% and the high number of respondents who have bad behavior is at risk of getting HIV/AIDS as much as 72.8%. Then, there is a significant relationship between knowledge about HIV/AIDS with risky sexual behavior in transgender ($p = 0.007$).

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