



Risk Factors of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Countermeasures: A Literature Review

Edza Aria Wikurendra^{1,2*}, Novera Herdiani², Yenni Gustiani Tarigan³, Arie Arizandi Kurnianto⁴

¹Doctoral School of Management and Organizational Science, Faculty of Economic Science, Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem, Kaposvár, Hungary; ²Public Health Study Program, Faculty of Health, Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama, Surabaya, Indonesia; ³Public Health Study Program, Faculty of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Sari Mutiara Indonesia University, Medan, Indonesia; ⁴Doctoral School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

Abstract

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***Correspondence:** Edza Aria Wikurendra, Doctoral School of Management and Organizational Science, Faculty of Economic Science, Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem Kaposvár, 7400, Kaposvár, Guba Sandor Utca 40, Somogy County, Hungary. E-mail: edza.wikurendra@phd.uni-szle.hu

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BACKGROUND: Tuberculosis (TB) is still the primary infectious disease in the world due to HIV/AIDS. In the 2015–2019 strategic plan of the Ministry of Health, infectious diseases are one of the main priorities that must create a Healthy Indonesia. The prevalence rate of pulmonary TB cases in Indonesia is 539,000 new cases each year, with the number of deaths around 101,000/year. Acid-fast bacilli (+) incidence rate is around 110/100,000 population.

AIM: This study aimed to identify the influencing factors and efforts to overcome pulmonary TB disease.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The research method was carried out by tracing the research reports/articles related to pulmonary TB incidence as many as 38 selected articles.

RESULT: Factors that influence TB infection incidence include age, income level (socioeconomic), housing conditions, the behavior of opening windows every morning, smoking, and a history of contact with TB patients. There are various countermeasures undertaken to overcome pulmonary TB, one of which uses a tissue model. This model involves many stakeholders whose duty is to provide knowledge and record the number of sufferers. The stages of action to control TB include discovery, treatment, and surveillance.

CONCLUSION: Facts in the field show that several factors can affect the success of implementing pulmonary TB control. Therefore, it is necessary to participate in all society components and involve other agencies beyond the health agency so the reduction in the incidence of pulmonary TB can be appropriately realized.

Introduction

Health development is an effort carried out to increase awareness, willingness, and ability to live a healthy life for everyone to realize the highest public health status. This effort should be made as an investment for the development of socially and economically productive human resources. To achieve an optimal degree of public health, the Disease Eradication Program focuses on preventing disease outbreaks, reducing morbidity and mortality, and reducing the adverse effects of communicable and non-communicable diseases. In the 2015–2019 strategic plan of the Ministry of Health, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, dengue hemorrhagic fever, influenza, and bird flu are the main priorities that must be realized to create a healthy Indonesia [1].

Pulmonary TB is an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which manifests in the lungs. These mycobacteria are transmitted through

airborne droplets from a patient with pulmonary TB. TB control efforts have been made through various health programs at the Community Health Center level. One of them is developing a TB control strategy known as the strategy Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS). DOTS has been shown to suppress transmission and prevent development (Multi Drugs Resistance) TB. The more indication found for TB patients, antiretroviral therapy enhances longevity, is quite well controlled, and thus can be tailored to control associated symptoms with empirical regimen of pulmonary TB. Moreover, synthetic glucocorticoid is beneficial both within the prevention and treatment of counterintuitive for the case that pulmonary TB with severe immune inflammatory symptom [2]. However, the results of its implementation in Indonesia are still not as expected.

Until now, pulmonary TB is still a significant health problem in the world and Indonesia. The World Health Organization reported the prevalence rate of pulmonary TB cases in Indonesia in 2016, approximately 130 100,000 population with 539,000

new cases and around 101,000 deaths/year. Acid-fast bacilli (AFB) pulmonary TB (+) incidence rate is about 110/100,000 population [3]. This disease is the third cause of death after heart disease and respiratory tract disease in Indonesia [4]. In the Annual Report on Global TB Control (2003), the WHO states Indonesia is one of 22 countries categorized as high-burdened countries for pulmonary TB. In 2004 an estimated 2 million people died worldwide due to pulmonary TB from 9 million cases. Due to its sizeable population, Indonesia ranks third globally in pulmonary TB after India and China [5]. Each year the estimated number of new cases ranges from 500 to 600 people among 100,000 inhabitants [4].

Nevertheless, in particular, the treatment program also needs additional measures to improve literacy in pulmonary TB treatment. Another factor that has to be considered is the capacity of human resources to manage TB. In addition, the enhanced integration technologies in terms of interconnection are often very important to track treatment in such a form that it would be comprehensive [6].

Approximately 75% of patients with pulmonary TB are in the economically productive age group (15–50 years). It is estimated that an adult with pulmonary TB will lose an average of 3–4 months of working time. The results in an annual loss of household income of around 20–30%. If a person dies from pulmonary TB, this person will lose your income for about 15 years. Apart from being economically detrimental, pulmonary TB also has a negative social impact, especially being ostracized by society [4]. Throughout a study performed in two groups of children, including those detected by diagnostic procedures and clinically diagnosed as multidrug-resistant TB, it was observed that several diseases were transmitted simultaneously in the group of children who clinically diagnosed [7].

Moreover, the number prevalence pulmonary TB among healthcare workers in South Africa had been also a serious indication for the severity transmission of pulmonary TB. The wide spread of transmission also influenced by literacy, self-awareness of personal hygiene, and the strengthen support from stakeholders [8]. Furthermore, with the complexity of risk factors may associated with the increasing number of pulmonary TB prevalence, it is also needed to consider the heredity factors that may play a big role in the outcomes of treatment period [9]. The genomic structure is essential to determine the rational and effective treatment and regiments for patients with pulmonary TB in responding to obtain the outcomes [10].

In addition, being one of the most infectious ailments in public health, one of the leading cross-functional to an escalation of incidents for pulmonary TB is a disparity in diagnosis, which deteriorates patients' health condition and severity [11]. The following characteristics were various treatment disruptions were employment, information level, initial attending to healthcare service, and receiving therapy from a

mystical or conventional therapist without first visiting a medical facility [12]. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the influencing factors and efforts to overcome pulmonary TB disease.

Research Method

This research was a literature review that used a meta-synthetic approach. This literature review was conducted in articles published in Google Scholar. The search terms or keywords used are "risk factor of TB" or "measurement TB." Search limits included: English and Indonesian language, but there were no limits for the year of publication or study. Finally, 38 articles were found and then there was the extraction of articles to answer this study's purpose.

Results and Discussion

Risk factors associated with pulmonary TB incidence

TB is a pulmonary infectious disease caused by bacteria. Factors that influence TB infection incidence include age, income level (socioeconomic), housing conditions, the behavior of opening windows every morning and smoking, and a history of contact with TB patients. Age plays a role in the incidence of TB. The risk of TB infection can be said as a normal curve is reversed. Ages 0–12 years have a high risk of TB infection and will then decline at the age of more than 2 years to adulthood because, at that age, a person has good resistance to TB. Furthermore, the risk of infection will again increase when a person approaches old age [13].

Income levels (socioeconomic) affect the incidence of TB. Family heads who have an income below the Regional Minimum Wage will consume foods with nutritional levels that are not suitable for each family member's needs. A lack of nutritional status in a person will facilitate disease infections, one of which is pulmonary TB [13]. Nutritional status and infectious diseases are closely related partners. Patients with infection often experience anorexia, use excessive time, decrease in nutrition, or malnutrition will have low immunity and are very sensitive to disease transmission. In a state of poor nutrition, the immune response will reduce so that the ability to defend itself against infection decreases [14]. Furthermore, unfavorable socioeconomic conditions can cause sufferers not to have the ability to build a healthy or eligible house. Lack of knowledge to obtain health information, the inadequate reach of health services

and lack of nutritional fulfillment can result in a low immune system making it easy to become infected [15]. Knowledge and education contribute to a person's health behavior. The low education level will affect how much experience a person, especially in healthy behavior [16]. Policymakers and systems integration have to speed up social and economic changes through community health to offer more resources for patients to mitigate quality of life deficiency of patient with pulmonary TB [17].

A systematic review of the predictive variables with fatalities among patients diagnosed pulmonary Tb indicates there is a correlation with triggers that may exacerbate the condition of patients with cases of pulmonary TB who died even after hospitalization. Degenerative disease conditions and cases of patients that have cancer complications often disrupt the treatment of patients with TB which might have drugs with immunostimulatory effects that interrupt the outcomes of the TB regimen [18]. Patients rarely miss the treatment even during recovery [19].

Home conditions are also a risk factor for pulmonary TB transmission. Roofs, walls, and floors can be breeding grounds for germs. Floors and walls that are difficult to clean will cause dust buildup, making them a suitable medium for multiplying germs. The behavior of a person accustomed to opening the window every morning and smoking also affects pulmonary TB incidence. The activity of opening windows every morning is one way to prevent pulmonary TB because sunlight can enter the house or room to kill the bacteria that cause pulmonary TB [13]. Less light causes the TB germs to survive in a cool, humid, and dark place without sunlight for years.

Moreover, the less ventilation area causes an increase in room humidity due to the evaporation of fluids from the skin. High humidity in the room will be a suitable medium for the growth and breeding of pathogenic bacteria, including TB germs [15], [16]. In poor ventilation conditions, the air is trapped in the room, and the room becomes stuffy and humid. Humidity in the house facilitates the breeding of the bacteria *M. tuberculosis*, and the state of air ventilation in small spaces is closely related to the incidence of pulmonary TB ventilation <15% of the floor area at risk of pulmonary TB 16.9>. Bedroom ventilation plays a significant role in air circulation, especially removing CO₂, including contaminated materials such as bacteria, so that a room's ventilation does not meet minimum standards. The transmission of pulmonary TB bacteria will mostly strike relatively healthy social encounters when they are in a damp, dirty, and poor lighting building [20].

In regards, the condition worsens with space which will become hot, and the air stagnates in it, eventually endangering the wearer [14]. Furthermore, ventilation is essential so that sunlight can enter the house [16]. Some clinicians found the patients frequently suffering with blocked breathing, whereby

patients typically involve chest pressure, coughing, and breathlessness [21]. Besides, factors in house conditions that do not meet health requirements such as non-permanent walls, high occupancy density, no garbage disposal, dirt-floored houses, and consuming water that does not meet the criteria are also factors that can increase the incidence of TB infection in the household [22].

Meanwhile, smoking can worsen the symptoms of TB [13], [22]. Likewise, passive smokers who inhale cigarette smoke will make passive smokers more easily infected with pulmonary TB. A history of contact with a patient with pulmonary TB can accelerate pulmonary TB cases because an average patient can transmit the bacteria to 2–3 people in the same room. The risk of transmission for households with more than one patient with pulmonary TB is 4 times that of families with only one patient with pulmonary TB [13]. When there is a history of the transmission of family members who suffer from pulmonary TB, it will transmit 79.781 times more than families without pulmonary TB. Some related factors may be associated with pulmonary TB found such as age, comorbid conditions, immunity condition, dietary condition, substance abuse, medication management, and medication sensitivity [19].

A history of contact with other family members who are suffering from pulmonary TB is critical because *M. tuberculosis* is very small, aerobic, and can survive in dry sputum or other excreta, and is highly contagious. Through inhalation excretion either through breath, coughing, sneezing, or speaking (droplet infection). When one family member is suffering from active pulmonary TB, all other family members will be susceptible to the disease, including close family members. Hereditary features influence the uptake and processing of drugs and the human susceptibility to toxicity [19]. A history of contact with family members in the same household and have had contact for ≥3 months at risk for infection with pulmonary TB, especially excessive contact through smell, hug, and speaking. The results showed that 63.8% of pulmonary TB patients came from household contact with family or parents who suffered from pulmonary TB [14].

In addition, the profound factor may associated with the steady flow of pulmonary TB prevalence's was about occupation. It has been reported it has been followed by the worsen with the inadequate of literacy of TB or pulmonary related disease treatment. For instance, the decreased self-rated well-being of mineworkers was evaluated by project type [23]. Based on the data from International Labor Organization (ILO) revealed the mining industry accounted for more than a quarter percent of cases of occupational diseases and accidents recorded between 2003 and 2007. International humanitarian organizations are now posing a growing number of claims of health risks for employees as a result of inadequate working conditions and abuses of power [24].

Counter measurement of pulmonary TB

There are various countermeasures undertaken to overcome pulmonary TB, one of which uses a tissue model. Even though the initial model applied in animal studies, it has been developed recently an examination concern about the ability and shortcomings of various scientific techniques used in TB studies, with an emphasis on animal and human-based cell culture models. The most recent developments in designing as a novel method for studying *M. tuberculosis* infection [25]. This model involves many stakeholders whose duty is to provide knowledge and record the number of sufferers. The TB Eradication Operational Network that was developed consisted of Tjekyan [26]:

- a. Establish a formal sub-district level organization, namely, the "Pulmonary TB Eradication Network" created by the District Government through inauguration with a District Head Decree.
- b. TB health promotion is the activity of detection and referral of suspected pulmonary TB by neighbor-level TB cadres. Suspect referrals are addressed to Urban Village Private doctors and the TB Prevention and Control Section at Community Health Centers by completing a particular referral form.
- c. Recruitment of village private practicing doctors is carried out because they are proficient in managing TB cases, DOTS strategy, fixed-dose regimen, recording system, and reporting as a pulmonary TB health service unit in each village.
- d. Diagnosis of TB is carried out by microscopic examination of sputum with a sensitivity of 78% and a specificity of 97%. The method used is the Sodium Hypochlorite centrifugation method in TB Prevention and Control. The TB Prevention and Control Laboratory were upgraded as a microscopic referral center limited specifically for districts.
- e. Anti-TB drugs with Fixed-Dose supervised by two Drug Ingestion Supervisors consisting of their closest family members and two-direct observer TB cadres.
- f. Use of Fixed-Dose Anti-TB Drugs whose availability is guaranteed by the sub-district TB Control, TB Prevention and Control at community health centers and health offices.
- g. Recording and reporting by Private Practitioners using TB 01 and TB 06 forms facilitated by the District TB Control Network, which is then reported to TB Prevention and Control at the community health center.
- h. The recruitment of new TB cadres is obtained from the tissue of patients who have recovered. The stages of action to control TB include discovery, treatment, and surveillance [27]:

The stages of discovery

The discovery of a suspected TB patient in the form of a cough with phlegm for more than 2 weeks whose cause could not be explained. While in children, there is a history of contact with a patient diagnosed with TB. For this finding's sub-indicators, the experts participating in the discussion recommended a standard TB diagnosis method formulation as a reference for all implementers in the field. Five items were successfully explored and concluded at the TB case detection stage:

- 1) Development of TB suspects criteria determination. Indicator: Suspect Selection Number.
- 2) Sputum inspection/sampling modification at Time-Morning-Time (SPS). Indicators: The proportion of AFB (+) among suspects and proportion of AFB (+) among all TB patients.
- 3) Thorax Photo Optimization to support SPS. Indicators: suspect screening figures and Case Detection Rate (CDR).
- 4) Diagnosis of TB in children based on the scoring system. Indicator: The proportion of child TB among all TB sufferers.
- 5) Identification and evaluation of intensive contacts. Indicator: CDR and case notification rate (Handling Indicator).

b. The stages of treatment

Five items were successfully explored and concluded at the TB case treatment stage:

- 1) Measurement of medication adherence. Indicators: conversion rate, cure rate, and treatment success rate.
- 2) Drug supply management. Indicator: Available/not.
- 3) Drug response assessment. Sputum examination of two specimens at the end of the intensive phase. 1 × sputum examination at the end of the 5th month. Examination of sputum 1 × at the end of therapy. Indicators: conversion rate, cure rate, Success Rate/SR.
- 4) HIV Counseling and Testing for Patients with TB. Indicator: Done/not.
- 5) Availability of second-line Anti-TB Drugs. Indicator: available/not.

c. The stages of surveillance

Four items were successfully explored and concluded at the TB case surveillance stage:

- 1) Sputum culture development for AFB (+). Indicator: Error Rate.
- 2) Culture development for patients with AFB (-) TB. Indicator: Error Rate.
- 3) Completeness of medical records. Indicator: complete/not.
- 4) Reporting: New cases, repeated cases, and treatment results. Indicator: done/not. Steps to control TB in Public Health Centers, according to other research [28]:

- a. Passive case finding is patients who visit for treatment with complaints, like symptoms or signs of TB disease clinically and actively from the families of patients at risk of contracting TB.
- b. Laboratory tests to confirm TB + or not (suspect).
- c. Patients who are positive for TB will be subjected to a home visit examination by a health worker to determine whether family members have had contact with the patient (contact tracing).
- d. Furthermore, Community Health Nursing (CHN) format is recorded specifically to document TB sufferers. The forms that need to be filled are Form TB 01 and Form TB 02 for patients and Form TB 03 for recording in the register book.
- e. TB cases are reported to the Health Office every month for new patients via SMS and every 3 months as a register or cohort report, which also serves as monitoring and evaluation.

In addition to several attempts to overcome the TB infection, increased knowledge, positive attitudes, and treatment compliance for pulmonary TB patients must also be realized through counseling. That is because the information needs of patients undergoing pulmonary TB treatment are very high [29]. Patients who undergo pulmonary TB treatment need information or health counseling about TB treatment and treatment [30]. Providing counseling with a group counseling model is more effective than the individual counseling model. Providing group counseling is more effective in terms of time, financial resources, and resources [31]. The kind of counseling can be cognitive intervention and clinical education for pulmonary TB patients on a daily basis [32].

In addition to providing counseling and health education about pulmonary TB and teaching necessary care skills to meet basic human needs, nurses as health workers need to give support or support to families. Focus on providing comprehensive counseling on the treatment of pulmonary TB that consequently tailored and detailed advice would deliver positive results [33]. There is indeed a step in order associated person on the treatment of pulmonary TB in the local community. Member of the family of them is through diagnostic support testing to confirm that TB patients are recurrent infections of TB before further treatment. This will promote the rationality of adequate treatment for the severity of pulmonary TB [34]. That is because the process of healing or recovering a patient needs human attention as a whole (holism), namely, bio, psycho, socio-cultural, and spiritual [35].

The immediate family's role, such as the wife and children of patients with pulmonary TB, is very significant in pulmonary TB sufferers' healing process at home. Wife and children as caregivers carry out family functions, as the

part of family healthcare. There are five family functions: The affective function, socialization, social placement function, the health-care function, the reproductive function, and the economic function [36]. It has always been recommended that medical professionals, patients and family members medication management be strengthened and that budgetary funding for enhancing commitment be increased [37]. Therefore, in realizing adequate health service facilities to control pulmonary TB, it is necessary to provide quality health services such as health counseling rooms [38].

Conclusion

Pulmonary TB is still a problem in developing countries like Indonesia and even in developed countries. This problem reappeared in the presence of HIV/AIDS. Factors that influence TB infection incidence include age, income level (socioeconomic), housing conditions, the behavior of opening windows every morning and smoking, and a history of contact with TB patients. Various attempts have been made to treat or reduce pulmonary TB infection incidence using a tissue model. This model involves many stakeholders whose duty is to provide knowledge and record the number of sufferers. The stages of action to control TB include discovery, treatment, and surveillance. Facts in the field show that several factors can affect the success of implementing pulmonary TB control. Therefore, it is necessary to participate in all society components and involve other agencies beyond the health agency so that the reduction in the incidence of pulmonary TB can be appropriately realized.

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