



Utilization Of Traditional And Medical Treatment During The Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

People experience fear in taking treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially treatment at health facilities. Traditional medicine is an alternative for people when they have health problems. This study aims to determine the use of health and traditional medicine. This research uses cross-sectional design data analysis (study of the cross-sectional survey) and primary data collection using Google form. The results of this study indicate that the number of respondents who used traditional medicine in the last three months was 388 people (46.8), not at all using traditional medicine as many as 280 people (33.8%), the most frequently visited health facilities are Telemedicine, with a total of 609 people. The public health centre is a health facility that ranks second most visited with 273 people. In a pandemic situation like this, the number of people who have experienced illness in the last 30 days is 465 respondents, where headaches have the highest number suffered in the last 30 days. The North Sumatra Provincial Health Office must innovate in medical treatment by paying attention to traditional medicine. The North Sumatra Provincial Health Office must improve the quality of medical services in overcoming health problems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has natural resources that have been used for generations as traditional medicine. Traditional medicine encompasses all of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences of various cultures that are used to promote health and to prevent, diagnose, ameliorate, and treat physical and mental illnesses. Traditional medicine based on indigenous wisdom has the potential to significantly improve people's standard of living, both economically and in terms of health (Widiarti, 2016). Traditional medicine is very important knowledge because the results are very satisfactory, no different from modern medicine. The costs incurred for traditional medicine are minimal or even almost non-existent (Kambuaya, 2019).

The health care system plays a critical role in promoting health. This health system enables the achievement of development goals in an effective, efficient, and timely manner. The success of the health care system is contingent upon the existence of numerous components, including funding, supporting facilities, and available human resources, in this case, nurses, physicians, radiologists, physiotherapists, nutritionists, and other health teams (Prasanti, 2019). According Subu (2015), traditional and alternative medicine play an important role in the Indonesian health system to meet mental health treatment needs. This treatment is the first choice of people with a mental health condition and their families.

People say that illness is an imbalance caused by two factors, namely physical and non-physical factors. Physical factors in question are natural phenomena such as wind, humidity, heat, cold and rain. Meanwhile, non-physical factors are meant to be supernatural creatures such as gods, spirits, demons, and objects that are considered to have supernatural powers through someone who can control and control them (Kusumah, 2017).

Each high population of Indonesia still uses traditional medicine in herbs, 4.5% of them consume traditional medicine every day, and the rest consume it occasionally. These traditional medicines can be in their concoctions, from traditional healers or those made by industry. The country of Indonesia has its wealth in traditional medicine; of the 30,000 species of plants, 7000 of them are plants that can be used as a medicine spread throughout the region. Indonesia also has around 280,000 traditional medicine practitioners in various regions (Sembiring, 2015). Animal knowledge as a form of traditional medicine is extremely beneficial to the community and must be preserved. Because the practices and techniques are well-known, simple to comprehend, and easy to master, this knowledge can be used as a foundation for self-help and community self-sufficiency (Afriyansyah, 2016).

The community's growing interest in traditional medicine has resulted in scientific information about traditional medicine occupying a prominent position, both as a scientific foundation for community and business use of traditional medicine and as a "state of the art" reference for traditional medicine research, including religious, traditional medicine for scientists (Rahman, 2018). Health services are interactions between consumers and service providers in the context of utilization (Karno, 2018; Sugyati, 2017). Numerous factors influence health service utilization, including service providers, service recipients, organizations, and sociocultural factors (Nurhayati, 2016).

The prevalence of NCDs is increasing, causing people to seek treatments that are considered appropriate, namely through traditional medicine. The higher the number of NCD cases, the more traditional health services sought and used by the community, the more types of traditional medicine circulating in the community will develop. This is especially the case for households with family members who suffer from one or more NCDs and through several factors that influence families to utilize these traditional health services (Kusumaningrum, 2017).

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on society. Data from the Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemenkes RI) shows an increase; 3,930,300 people are confirmed positive for COVID-19, which impacts community activities that are not optimal. Government programs, especially large-scale social restrictions, are important in achieving the government's target to reduce morbidity in these sick groups. So that the health status significantly reduced the number of morbidity at 3,472,915 patients had recovered from the disease. During this pandemic, corona tests are the use of health facilities to detect early Corona Virus infections and by issuing protocols and preparing special places for people infected with Corona (Siregar, 2020).

2. RESEARCH METHODE

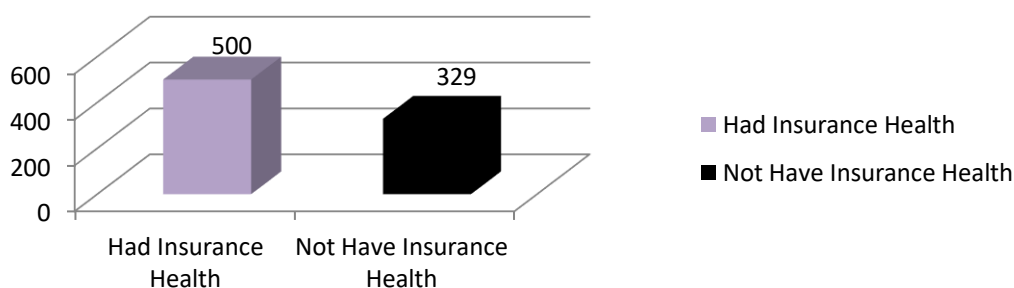
This study uses a quantitative method with a cross-sectional design. This research was conducted in North Sumatra Province using a google form to 1000 teenagers who felt health problems in North Sumatra Province. This research was conducted from June to August 2021. The variables in this study are insurance ownership, the experience of health problems for the last 30 days, utilization of health facilities for the last 30 days, use of traditional medicine for the last 30 days and medical costs of health facilities.

All respondents in this study were teenagers who had had health problems in the last one month—collecting data in this study using snowball to distribute online questionnaires using a google form, which 10 data collectors carried out. The primary data in this study was conducted directly using an online questionnaire. Researchers will analyze univariate data by conducting a frequency distribution by describing the percentage and frequency of the number of each variable.

3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

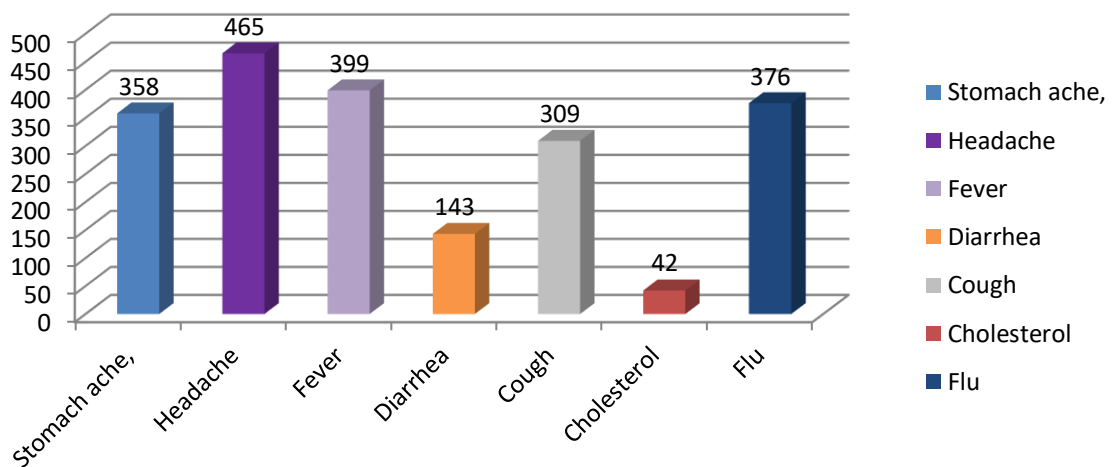
This research was conducted on 829 respondents to determine the utilization of medical and traditional health services in North Sumatra Province.

Graph 1 Distribution of Respondents' Had Insurance Health



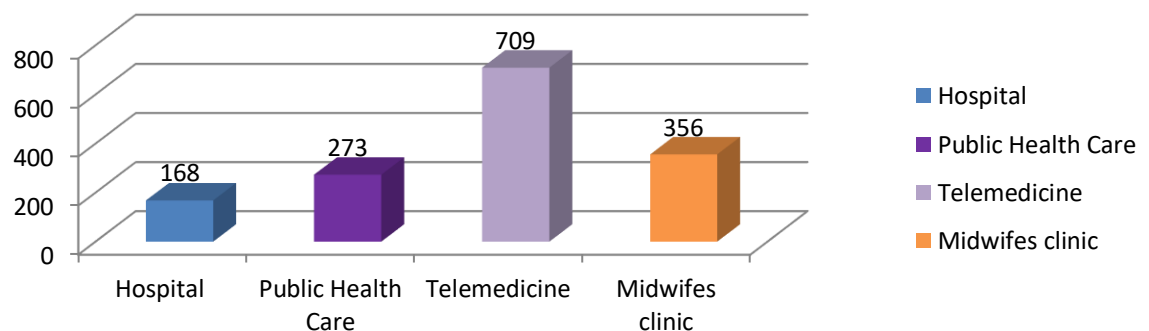
The results of this study indicate that most do not have life insurance as many as 329 people (39.7%), social health assurance includes non-workers and non-wage workers as many as 346 people (41.7%), social health assurance are 77 people (9.3%), social health assurance from the government is classified as poor and poor people whose contributions are paid by the government as many as 49 people (5.9%) and Private Insurance covers such as Allianz, Manulife, Cigna, etc. as many as 28 people (3.4%). It can be said that the number of those who have social health assurance are students where the number of respondents who fill out the questionnaire service is 552 students (66.7%)

Graph 2 Distribution of Respondents' Health Problems in the Last 30 Days



In a pandemic situation like this, the number of people who have experienced illness in the last 30 days is 50.9%, where headaches have the highest number suffered in the last 30 days. Then Fever was ranked the 2nd most suffered, and Cholesterol was the least suffered disease due to the small percentage of respondents aged >40 years and over.

Graph 3 Distribution of Medical Treatmen in the Last 30 Days

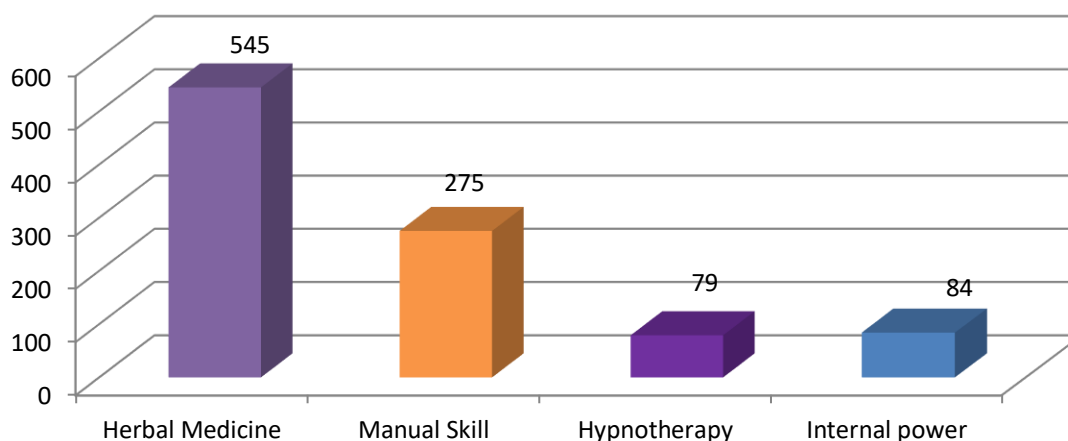


This study indicates that the most frequently visited health facilities are Telemedicine, with a total of 609 people. Telemedicine treatment is online treatment such as Alodoc, Hello doctor, KlikDokter; this is because many respondents are worried about the impact of Covid-19 and treatment methods. Telemedicine is a simple treatment and does not have to leave the house; this can be used to prevent the spread of Covid-19,

according to data on respondents' satisfaction with health facilities, as many as 748 people (90.2%).

Public health center is a health facility that ranks second most visited with a total of 273 people; this is because the Public health center has the closest distance travelled by respondents as many as 600 people and respondents getting recommendations from family/friends and affordable prices.

Graph 4 Distribution of Traditional Medicine Utilization in the Last 30 Days



The results of this study indicate that the number of respondents who used traditional medicine in the last three months was 388 people (46.8), not at all using traditional medicine as many as 280 people (33.8%). According to the data, some respondents did not use it but made their efforts as many as 161 people (19.4%); this is because some respondents have Herbal Medicinal Plants as many as 475 people (57.4%) such as Ginger, Turmeric, Betel, Temulawak, Bidara leaves, Lemongrass, Kaffir lime. The satisfaction of respondents in this traditional medicine was 439 people (53%).

Table 1 Frequency Distribution of Health Facility Cost by Medical Treatment and Traditional Medicine

Health Facility Cost	Medical Treatment		Traditional Medicine	
	n	%	n	%
Expensive Cost	274	33.1	55	6.6
Medium Cost	525	63.3	528	63.7
Low Cost	30	3.6	246	29.7
Total	829	100	829	100

This study indicates that respondents who consider medical treatment costs to be in the expensive category make 274 respondents (33.1%) continue to use medical treatment while 55 respondents (6.6%) use traditional medicine. Respondents who considered the medical costs of health facilities to be in the moderate category made 525 respondents (63.3%) continue to use medical treatment, while respondents used traditional medicine were 528 respondents (63.7%). Respondents who consider the cost of medical treatment to be in the cheap category makes 30 respondents (3.6%) continue to use medical treatment while respondents who use traditional medicine are 246 respondents (29.17%).

4. DISCUSS

Health Problems in the Last 30 Days

Pain is an unpleasant condition that afflicts a person, disrupting daily physical, spiritual, and social activities. The study results found that headaches had the highest number suffered in the last 30 days, as much as 50.9%, and cholesterol was the least suffered disease due to the least percentage of respondents aged > 40 years and over.

Each person interprets his illness differently, interpreting his illness as a warning, an eraser of sins. *Pain* is defined as a physical and psychological condition, individuals respond to symptoms of the disease that appear differently, and the meaning of illness can change according to the situation faced by the sufferer. According to Lugito (2015), regarding illness suffered in 30 days, one of which is malnutrition, 30 days of geriatric patients hospitalised suffer from malnutrition and are at risk of malnutrition compared to good nutritional status at the beginning of treatment have not been proven.

Public perception of several regions in Indonesia regarding illness and disease; Society assumes that illness is a state of the individual experiencing a series of physical disorders that cause discomfort. Sick children are characterized by fussy behaviour, frequent crying and no appetite. According to Efriani (2020), sickness and disease are understood as disturbances from supernatural beings or evil spirits. Therefore, the treatment is also generally carried out by people who can communicate with supernatural beings and spirits. Such treatment is called “a dukun (Batra)”, or baliat, said the way of life and human lifestyle is a phenomenon associated with the emergence of various kinds of diseases. Besides, the results of various cultures can also cause disease. Society and traditional healers adhere to two concepts of the cause of illness, namely: personalistic and naturalistic.

Health Facilities

According Putri (2020), the service quality dimension (service quality) can be defined as the gap between reality and consumer expectations regarding the services they receive or obtain. Personal care, information and education, emotional and spiritual support, service access (speed in registering, examination, waiting for examination results, and receiving medication), physical comfort (limited patient mobility, pain clinics), family/patient involvement, continuity of care.

Health facilities are health service facilities used to organize individual health service efforts, whether promotive, preventive, curative or rehabilitative, carried out by the government, regional government and the community. The study results showed that Telemedicine was the most visited Health Facility with a total of 609 people. Telemedicine treatment is treatment via online such as alodoc, hello doctor, klik dokter; this is because many respondents are worried about the impact of Covid-19 besides the Telemedicine Treatment method is a simple treatment and does not have to leave the house, this can be used as one of the preventions of the spread Covid-19. Meanwhile, the mantri clinic is a health facility visited at least by 94 people because it has a fairly long distance for the respondents.

The results of research Jannah (2020) indicate that the utilization of health services can be influenced by several things such as knowledge, attitudes and support from the social environment. The results of research Suratri MAL (2016) that the higher knowledge, attitudes and social support will increase the utilization of health services.

According Widiarti (2016), a person using health services is influenced by his behaviour which is formed from knowledge. Someone tends to use health services because of the belief and belief that these services can cure disease. According Tambunan (2020), pregnant women with limited knowledge are less likely to take an HIV test in health facilities. This lack of knowledge may also occur as a result of some pregnant women's refusal to participate in various counseling activities regarding HIV and HIV testing in health facilities.

According Hasibuan (2019), the number of visits to the public health centre is on a positive trend. Many people have realized that regular health checks are important to prevent the disease from an early age. Community behaviour in using health services is determined by the level or degree of perceived illness and the need for health services (perceived need). The increasing level or degree of perceived illness will make a person more in need of healing and will increasingly need health services. According Burns (2015), pathways to mental health care must be strengthened through innovative programs that foster collaboration between biomedical mental health services and these critical community-based providers.

Most Indonesians live in rural areas, far from health care facilities, both public and private. Even though living in cities, other residents often do not go to health care facilities when they or their families are sick, especially if the illness is considered mild, they look for their medicines, traditional medicines or modern medicines by buying medicines at shops or stalls. Public health centres in the social health assurance system have a major role in social health assurance participants. If the public health centre services are good, more social health assurance participants will take advantage of health services, but the opposite can happen if the service is inadequate.

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Traditional Medicine

Traditional medicine is a treatment method used in various societies since time immemorial, which is passed down and developed gradually from generation to generation based on the level of human understanding of knowledge from time to time. According to Efendy (2016), traditional medicine methods consist of treatment using herbs and even treatment by providing massage or prayer by traditional healers. According to Munira (2016), a person's health behaviour will be related to that person's belief in the desired health condition and is not based on biological knowledge. Each individual has a different way of taking corrective or preventive action even though the health problem is the same. According Purwanto (2016) stated the interplay of indigenous healers with the medical

system must be harmonious. Social considerations, community culture, and patients' views of efficacy all influence the use of traditional mbeko medicine.

The study results found that the number of respondents who used traditional medicine in the last three months was 388 people (46.8%), not at all using traditional medicine as many as 280 people (33.8%). According to the data, some respondents did not use it but made their efforts as many as 161 people (19.4%); this is because some respondents have Herbal Medicinal Plants as many as 475 people (57.4%) such as Ginger, Turmeric, Betel, Temulawak, Bidara leaves, Lemongrass, Kaffir lime.

Traditional medicine is local wisdom from previous generations that are obtained through various processes to prove its efficacy. Traditional medicine is an ingredient or ingredient in the form of plant material, animal material, mineral material, preparation of extracts (galenic), or a mixture of these materials used for generations to heal the community. Traditional medicine can be applied according to the norms prevailing in society, such as Jammu, a traditional medicine provided traditionally, for example, in the form of steeping powder or liquid containing all the plant materials that make up the herbal medicine and is used traditionally.

According to Ervina (2018), family experience and low cost are why most patients choose traditional medicine. According to Musyimi (2016), dialogue between formal and informal health workers is critical for establishing mutual trust and respect and for improving mental health care in Kenya. This approach could be replicated across all of Kenya's registered traditional and faith healers. According Kambuaya (2019), traditional medicine, as a national culture, is an attempt to heal and treat in non-medical ways. The modern medical system has advanced rapidly in recent years and has impacted nearly every level of society.

According Lesmana (2018), traditional medicine used by people in several regions in Indonesia is very diverse. Communities in a certain area have traditional medicines different from other regional communities; this is because the biodiversity in the environment in which they live and the local wisdom they have is the cause of the emergence of various cultural products of biodiversity. According Sopi (2015), resistance has developed to several anti-malarial drugs, it is necessary to use medicinal plants in scientifically proven anti-malarial traditional medicine. Many people still use traditional medicine to treat diseases, demonstrating that the community's traditions regarding treatment livelihoods are still strong.

Three characteristics of traditional medicine that make patients believe in traditional medicine are the belief that life is a unity of body, emotion, mind and spirit or soul, and health is a balance between several aspects of the human body and the environment. Illness will occur when there is no continuity between the physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. Second, traditional medicine uses a holistic approach to diagnosis and treatment, rather than looking at parts of the body. Third, traditional medicine is based on individual needs; different people have different actions, even in the same disease.

The medical system can be included in the element of a nation's knowledge system, which in its realization can be included in the technology element. Javanese culture has a system of medical knowledge that the Javanese have used for hundreds of years, namely before the introduction of modern medical techniques. This system of medicine is known as

the traditional medicine system. Herbs used in traditional medicine contain various substances that are beneficial to health. Their traditional medicine covers all kinds of illnesses. Starting from mild disease to severe disease, even to maintain physical fitness and health.

Traditional medicine that exists in rural communities is one phenomenon that describes how syncretization occurs. The tug of war between religion and culture seems to occur in a tug-of-war, sometimes even running simultaneously. This book tries to provide an overview of how the reality of traditional medicine systems is viewed from sociology, anthropology, and psychology to get the essence of the traditional medicine system.

5. CONCLUSION

Health facilities are used to organize individual health service efforts, whether promotive, preventive, curative or rehabilitative, carried out by the Government, Regional Government and the Community. Based on the results of this study, many people use health facilities with telemedicine. Telemedicine Treatment is Treatment via Online such as Alodoc, Hello doctor, KlikDokter; this is because many respondents are worried about the impact of Covid-19 besides the Telemedicine Treatment method is a simple treatment and does not have to leave the house, this can be used as one of the preventions of the spread Covid-19.

Since time immemorial, traditional medicine methods in various circles of society have been passed down and developed gradually from generation to generation based on the level of human understanding of knowledge from time to time. Traditional medicine was chosen mainly because of the inability and fear of the modern medical system in treating certain diseases. The use of traditional medicine, among others, is wanting to have a longer life expectancy, besides that every year herbal medicines are getting wider for us to access information and the use of modern medicines such as cancer drugs.

The study results found that the costs of medical treatment and traditional medicine varied and were seen from the social level of each respondent—benefits offered by health facilities to patients to satisfy and earn patient loyalty or loyalty to health facilities. Health facilities in Indonesia have different rates according to the ability of the community to have health insurance.

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