

Association between Mothers' Characteristics, Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice and Intestinal Helminthes Infection on Children

Nadhira Permata Hakiki,¹ Lia Faridah,² Meita Dhamayanti,³ Dida Akhmad Gurnida³

¹Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran, ²Departement of Microbiology & Parasitology Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran, ³Departement of Child Health Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran/Dr. Hasan Sadikin General Hospital, Bandung

Abstract

Background: The prevalence of soil-transmitted helminthes infection in Indonesia is still high, especially in children aged 3 to 8 years old. Helminthes infection cause loss of nutrition, delay physical development, intelligence, and labor productivity and decrease immunity. Mothers' characteristics, knowledge, attitude, and practice are some of the factors that influence the occurrence of intestinal helminthes infection on children. This study was aimed to find the association between mothers' characteristics, knowledge, attitude, and practice and the occurrence of intestinal helminthes infection on children.

Methods: The study was conducted at Jatiningor Cohort's research center from August to September 2014 using cross sectional analysis. One hundred and forty five secondary data were collected using validated questionnaire that filled by mothers and results of feces on children were tested. The amount of data excluded due to incomplete was 8, the data utilized was then analyzed by Chi Square evaluation.

Results: Mothers' characteristics such as age ($P = 0.611$), education ($P = 0.952$), occupation ($P = 0.876$), income ($P = 0.199$), and knowledge ($P = 0.424$; $OR = 1.333$), attitude ($P = 0.236$; $OR = 0.808$), practice ($P = 0.333$; $OR = 4.625$) did not have a significant association with the occurrence of intestinal helminthes infection on children.

Conclusions: Characteristics, knowledge, attitude, and practice of the mothers towards the intestinal helminthes infection do not associate with the occurrence of intestinal helminthes infection on children. [AMJ.2016;3(2):248-53]

Keywords: Attitude, characteristics, intestinal helminthes infection, knowledge, practice

Introduction

Globally, more than 1 billion people are infected by soil-transmitted helminthes, especially in warm yet moist climate area. In Indonesia, the occurrence of intestinal helminthes infection is a public health problem, especially for the children with the age of elementary school student. Study showed that 60 out of 100 elementary school students in South Tapanuli¹ were infected by helminthes. Study in Palu² showed that 93 out of 180 subject infected by helminthes were elementary school students. Study in Bandung³ showed that 22 out of 142 elementary school students were infected by helminthes. Children are more often infected than adults, with the most frequent range of age from 3 to 8 years old.⁴

Helminthes infection causes loss of

nutrition, delay physical development, level of intelligence, labor productivity and decrease in immunity system.⁴ Society level of healthiness are influenced by four factors. Knowledge, attitude, and practice are the most dominant influential factors on the dynamic of society's level of healthiness.⁵ Study showed that health status is also influenced by family, included parent's characteristics such as level of education, income, etc.⁶⁻⁸ According to those conceptions, mothers' characteristics, knowledge, attitude, and practice towards a certain kind of disease play its role in the occurrence of the particular disease itself. Hence, this study was conducted to discover the association between mothers' characteristics, knowledge, attitude, and practice towards the helminthes infection and the occurrence of intestinal helminthes infection on children.

Correspondence: Nadhira Permata Hakiki, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Padjadjaran, Jalan Raya Bandung-Sumedang Km.21, Jatiningor, Sumedang, Indonesia, Phone: +62 81311260236 Email: nadhiraph@gmail.com