

Research Article



## Analysis of Social Factors on Immunization Refusal in Jungkat Village

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Immunization is one of the most effective and efficient health intervention programs to prevent various diseases in children. But there are still refusals of immunization in some areas in West Kalimantan, one of which is in Jungkat Village. The low number of fully immunized children in Jungkat Village is a serious problem. As a result of not being immunized, dangerous diseases that can be prevented by immunization still threaten children in Jungkat Village. This study aims to understand and identify the factors of refusal of complete basic immunization in Jungkat Village, Mempawah District, West Kalimantan.

**Methods:** This research used a descriptive qualitative approach. The number of participants in this study was six people who were selected using purposive sampling method. Of the six people, consisted of the head of the Jungkat Health Center, posyandu officers, and three mothers who had toddlers aged 0-24 months.

**Results:** Traditional beliefs and experiences: people in Jungkat village believe that bad things will happen after immunization, family support: without family support, mothers in Jungkat village will be less motivated to participate in the immunization program, parents. There are parents who do not understand why immunization is important for their children's health. **Conclusions:** Research on the factors of refusal of basic immunization in Jungkat Village, found that the factors of belief in tradition and community experience, community experience, family support, and parental knowledge greatly influenced community attitudes towards immunization.

**Keywords :** *Refusal, Immunization, Jungkat Village.*

## INTRODUCTION

Immunization is one of the most effective and efficient health intervention programs to prevent various diseases in children. The implementation of comprehensive immunization programs is still a problem in various countries, based on data from WHO in 2021, it was recorded that around 25 million children worldwide had not received complete immunization. This figure shows an increase of 5.9 million compared to 2019, reaching the highest number since 2009. In Indonesia, from 2017 to 2021, 1,525,936 children have not been fully immunized (1) This is because there are still many children in Indonesia who have not received immunity through immunization, so they have a high potential risk of various diseases to death which can actually be prevented through immunization.

Immunization is the process of increasing a person's immunity by injecting vaccines. With immunization, if a person is exposed to a disease in the future, he or she will only experience mild symptoms (2) The main goal of immunization is to reduce the risk of morbidity, disability, and mortality caused by Immunization Preventable Diseases (PD3I) (3).

The immunization program is one of the national priorities of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. The implementation of immunization is a tangible manifestation of the government's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially reducing child mortality. Based on Health Law Number 36 of 2009 of the Republic of Indonesia, the government is obliged to provide comprehensive basic immunization

to all infants and children. Every child is entitled to basic immunization against diseases that can be prevented by immunization (PD3I), in accordance with applicable regulations.

Provisions regarding the implementation of this immunization are regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 Year 2017 promulgated on 11 April 2017. The regulation stipulates that every infant aged 0-11 months must receive immunization. Comprehensive basic immunization includes immunization against hepatitis B, polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, pneumonia, meningitis caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) and measles (4)

In Indonesia, the government has made various efforts to increase immunization coverage, one of which is by organizing the Complete Basic Immunization program. This immunization program is organized by the government without charging fees from the community. The government also requires everyone to undergo immunization according to their health condition (5) This shows that the government plays an active role in ensuring that all children in Indonesia receive adequate protection against diseases that can be prevented through immunization.

Amidst the government's efforts to achieve herd immunity through the national immunization program, the implementation of the immunization program faces various obstacles that hinder its progress. These challenges include poor perceptions surrounding routine immunization, fueled by widespread rumors that spread inaccurate

information such as safety concerns, substandard vaccine quality, and alleged links to vaccines using substances from pigs. In addition, there is a lack of public awareness and understanding of the importance of immunization, resulting in resistance to immunization programs that are supposed to provide protection for children and society in general(6)

In 2022, West Kalimantan is one of the provinces in Indonesia that is lagging behind in achieving the national target of Complete Basic Immunization (IDL)(7). Based on BPS data, the percentage of children aged 12-23 months in West Kalimantan who received IDL is only 51.83%, the immunization achievement in this province is lower than the national target of 90%. This condition increases the potential for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, diphtheria and pertussis, especially among vulnerable children. This low level of immunization coverage is causing concern in the community as it potentially presents a serious risk to children's health (8)

In Jungkat Village, Jongkat Sub-district, Mempawah District, child health issues are a concern because complete basic immunization plays an important role in protecting children from various diseases. Data from the Jungkat Village Health Center in 2023 shows a concerning reality. Of the 350 children targeted for complete basic immunization, only 197 children were immunized. This means that only 56.29% of the target was achieved, far below the target. The low number of fully immunized children in Jungkat Village is a serious problem that must be addressed immediately. Dangerous diseases that can be prevented by immunization are still a threat to children in Jungkat Village.

Health workers from the puskesmas

and health office have made various efforts to address this problem, including counseling people who are reluctant to immunize children in Jungkat Village and conducting house-to-house visits. However, there are still people who refuse immunization. The impact of refusing immunization can be very serious, as it can increase the risk of preventable diseases. It can also impact the overall achievement of immunization targets in West Kalimantan.

Previous research on immunization refusal has been carried out by several studies, including Research by Siswanto (2020), found that the rejection of immunization in the Sedulur Sikep (Samin) community was influenced by, the perception of low risk of disease without immunization, the assumption that diseases without immunization are not dangerous due to lack of knowledge, the belief that immunization is not useful, the perception that the disadvantages of immunization are greater and the lack of support for immunization. Research on immunization was also conducted by Addiarto (2022), The results showed a significant relationship between several factors and the coverage of follow-up immunization in infants under two years old (baduta). These factors included family support, community empowerment, the role of health workers, and recording and reporting. Among these factors, the role of health workers was found to be the dominant factor that most influenced the coverage of continued immunization among under-fives.

From this background, this study aims to understand and identify the factors of refusal of complete basic immunization in Jungkat Village, Mempawah Regency, West Kalimantan, which are influenced by social factors such as belief in tradition and community experience, family support, and

parental knowledge.

## METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. According to Moleong in his book "Qualitative Research Methods" (2021), this approach aims to understand the meaning, views, and experiences of research subjects in depth. This research focuses on the factors of community resistance to immunization of children aged 0-24 months.

The number of participants in this study was six people, who were selected using purposive sampling method. This method was used to select participants who were considered to be able to provide relevant and in-depth information related to the research topic. The participants consisted of the Head of Jungkat Health Center, posyandu officers, and three mothers of toddlers. The selection of participants using purposive sampling allowed the researcher to extract information from individuals who had direct knowledge and experience of the problem under study.

To collect data, researchers used several instruments, namely interview guidelines, recording devices, and field notes. The researcher acted as the main instrument in the data collection process, which is in line with the characteristics of qualitative research. The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with participants to obtain detailed and rich information. In addition, observations were also made to enrich data from interviews by looking at the situation and conditions directly in the field.

The data analysis process in this research includes several important stages. The first stage is data collection, where researchers collect all relevant data from interviews and observations. Furthermore,

the data that has been collected is reduced, which is simplified and selected based on its relevance and importance for further analysis. The reduced data was then presented in the form of narratives or tables to facilitate interpretation. The final stage of data analysis is conclusion drawing, where researchers draw conclusions based on the data that has been analyzed and validate these conclusions through triangulation of data sources.

Source triangulation is used to validate data by comparing and verifying information obtained from various sources. This ensures that the data obtained is accurate and consistent. With this approach, researchers can understand the social factors that influence immunization refusal in Jungkat Village, such as belief in tradition, community experience, family support, and parental knowledge. (11)

## RESULTS

Based on the results of in-depth interviews, it was found that some parents in Jungkat Village have a negative view of immunization which is influenced by hereditary beliefs and previous bad experiences. One informant stated:

*"Every time my child was immunized, he always had a high fever and was fussy. I became afraid of giving immunizations again. Every time we go to the posyandu, after the injection, my child is always sick. We are confused and worried, whether this is really safe or dangerous."*

Belief in stories circulating in the community is also very strong. One of the other informants told us a story:

*"We once heard a story about a child who died after immunization, so we felt afraid and chose to avoid vaccination so that the same thing would not happen to our child. This story has been circulating in the village for a long time, and we all became hesitant and afraid. What if it happens to our child too?"*

Lack of support from family is also a significant factor in low immunization participation. One mother revealed:

*"My family did not encourage me to bring my child to the posyandu for immunization. Instead, they say that children can be healthy without vaccination and there is no need to follow the immunization program recommended by the government. When I told them about immunization, they scared me and said it was better not to do it. So, I hesitate and am not sure what to do."*

In addition, it was found that parents' understanding of immunization is still very low. Another informant mentioned:

*"I know that children should be injected, but I don't really understand why immunization is important. We are not given in-depth explanations about the benefits of immunization and the risks that can occur if children are not vaccinated. So far, we only know that children should be injected without understanding why."*

Ignorance of the risks faced without immunization is also striking. Another mother adds: *"I didn't know that without*

*immunization, children can get serious infectious diseases. We only knew that the child was injected, but did not know what the consequences would be if not immunized. No one explained it clearly to us, so we just followed what others said and felt scared ourselves."*

## DISCUSSION

This study uses L. Green's theoretical approach, namely there are three factors in immunization refusal, namely predisposing factors, enabling factors, and driving factors. Predisposing factors include knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, values, and habits of the community related to immunization. Enabling factors include the availability and accessibility of health facilities and infrastructure. Limited facilities or distances that are difficult to reach can be an obstacle for people to get immunization services. In addition, enabling factors include support from health workers and the closest environment, such as husbands or families (12).

### Belief in Tradition and Community Experience

Traditional beliefs and past experiences shape the Jungkat community's views on immunization. These beliefs often develop from personal knowledge and environmental influences, which are sometimes limited in their information (13). Our study is in line with the findings of Cendikia (2024), which showed that low belief in vaccination is closely associated with high refusal of basic immunization in infants.

In Jungkat Village, the belief that immunization has a negative impact causes

many parents to be reluctant to vaccinate their children. For example, parents worry that their child will have a fever or experience side effects after vaccination, even though these risks are small compared to the protective benefits it provides (14). Tradition also plays an important role in this decision. Traditions passed down from generation to generation provide the norms by which people deal with life's challenges (15). The belief that not immunizing will protect children from negative impacts shows how strongly tradition influences health decisions.

In addition, bad experiences in the past reinforce negative views of immunization. According to Desvianto in Prakoso (2022), past experiences influence a person's response to similar situations in the future. A tragic incident where a child died after immunization created deep fear among the people of Jungkat Village, making them more cautious and likely to avoid immunization.

As a result, participation in the immunization program in Jungkat Village is low, as parents feel safer if their children are not vaccinated. This attitude, although based on past experiences, prevents them from receiving up-to-date health information and the safety-tested benefits of vaccination. Tragic events in the past continue to influence the health decisions made by parents today, demonstrating the importance of ongoing health education to change erroneous views about immunization.

### **Family Support**

Family support, in the form of attention, appreciation, information, advice, and materials, greatly influences parents' decisions regarding immunization of their children (18).

This research is in line with research conducted by Lushinta (2024), which shows that family support plays an important role in the completeness of immunization in infants and toddlers. In Jungkat Village, lack of family support is a major factor influencing parents' decision not to immunize their children. Interviews with informants revealed that many children aged 0 to 24 months do not get the necessary immunizations because families do not motivate mothers to bring their children to the posyandu or other health facilities. In fact, some families suggested otherwise.

Family support greatly influences mothers' attitudes and behaviours towards immunization. Families are not only a source of information, but also provide important advice and guidance (20). However, if the information provided is wrong, as found in this study, mothers become hesitant and reluctant to immunize their children. Families have a huge influence on decision-making as they are the closest people. If one family member is ill, it impacts the whole family, making the family a strategic focus of care. Family support includes information, care, emotions, judgment, and assistance that the mother of an infant or young child receives through interactions with the environment (21).

Lack of family support and misinformation put children in Jungkat Village at risk of diseases that could have been prevented by immunization. Without family support, mothers in Jungkat Village are less motivated to follow the government immunization program. Positive family support can help mothers to remember the immunization schedule and understand that a hot reaction in the baby after immunization is not a reason to stop the next immunization (20).

### Parental Knowledge

Maternal knowledge is very important in completing child immunization because it forms the right mindset. Knowledge, awareness, and positive attitudes will result in consistent behavior in providing complete immunization to children. Sufficient knowledge can help mothers play an important role in providing an understanding of how attitudes are formed and how mindsets are implemented in actions to provide protection to children (4).

This study is in line with Waruk's research (2024) which showed a significant relationship between parental knowledge and the completeness of basic immunization in infants. In Jungkat Village, mothers' knowledge was the main factor in refusing immunization. Interviews revealed that parents in Jungkat Village lacked understanding of immunization. They only know that children need to be injected, but do not understand the reasons and benefits in depth. Many parents are unaware of the importance of immunization and the risks if children are not immunized. Without immunization, children are more vulnerable to infectious diseases such as measles, polio and hepatitis, which can have a serious impact on a child's health. (4).

Lack of knowledge makes parents less concerned or aware of the importance of bringing children to the posyandu or other health facilities to get complete immunizations. As a result, children in Jungkat Village who are not adequately immunized are vulnerable to infectious diseases, which can be harmful to their health and that of the community. A lack of understanding about the importance of immunizations can disrupt the schedule and completeness of immunizations, increasing

the risk of illness in infants. Conversely, good knowledge can ensure timely immunization delivery, ultimately improving community health.

To improve understanding, parents need to have deeper knowledge. Good understanding allows parents to explain, infer and interpret information about immunization. They will be able to divide information into related parts, analyze, describe, classify, differentiate and compare information related to immunization. Information obtained about immunization will help mothers learn more, thus encouraging them to have positive attitudes and actions regarding immunization. Information about immunization can be obtained from various sources, such as health workers, cadres, health promotion media, and other sources that can be accessed by the community (20).

### CONCLUSION

The results of the research on the refusal of basic immunization in Jungkat Village, can be concluded that the factors of belief in tradition and community experience, community experience, family support, and parental knowledge greatly influence community attitudes towards immunization. The research shows that negative views towards immunization can be influenced by hereditary beliefs and tragic experiences experienced by some previous individuals in Jungkat village. In addition, the role of the family, especially in providing support and advice, also has a major impact on a mother's decision to immunize her child. Although knowledge also plays an important role, there is still a lack of understanding about immunization among mothers in Jungkat Village.

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