



TRANSGENDERS COMPLIANCE FACTORS IN CARRYING OUT VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND TESTING (VCT) SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

VCT test services play a role in improving the health status of the community, both physically and mentally through pre-counseling VCT tests to clients or patients as well as being the main network for the spread of HIV/AIDS in Indonesia. In the era of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is no reason to carry out VCT tests on transgender because the government continues to urge to implement health protocols to break the chain of transmission of Covid-19. This study aims to determine the factors that influence compliance with VCT test services for transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic in Madiun Regency and support the recovery of people with HIV/AIDS. This research is a quantitative research with a cross sectional approach, which produces data from interviewing respondents through a questionnaire research instrument. Sampling was conducted by random sampling using the Slovin formula with a sample size of 69 respondents. Thematic analysis was performed using the Chi-Square test. Based on the theory of Lawrence Green Behavior Causes, there are factors that can influence behavior. Predisposing Factors, Knowledge, Attitudes; Enabling factors, VCT test services; Reinforcing factors, family support, peer support, health worker support. In this study, all factors affect the compliance of VCT test services during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the researchers found that, family support factors, the role of the community and local government. The results of this study are expected to be used as supporting data and references in improving the quality of VCT test services for at-risk groups.

Keywords: VCT Test, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, Covid-19 Pandemic

PENDAHULUAN

HIV/AIDS is a disease that has become a scourge in social circles because it attacks the immune system of a person who is positive and vulnerable to various other medical disorders, even this disease is a silent killer. Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a type of virus that damages the immune system and CD4 cells. While Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome is a condition of a group of HIV infection at each stage starting from the first to the fourth stage and showing symptoms. Based on data from the United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS, in 2018 as many as 37.9 million people around the world lived side by side with HIV

and 770,000 people died from AIDS infection. This is because there are still many sufferers who are reluctant to access HIV/AIDS health services because of social discrimination, violence and abuse. Globally, the World Health Organizations estimates that there are around 38 million people suffering from HIV disease at the end of 2019. Meanwhile, the death rate from the disease is 690 thousand people and the number of new sufferers is 1.7 million people.

From the estimation results up to 2019, it is estimated that the number of HIV/AIDS sufferers in East Java is 63,581 people and since September 2013 the province of East Java has been designated as an area with concentrated



HIV prevalence along with 5 other provinces, namely DKI Jakarta, Papua, Bali, Riau and Java. West. The addition of AIDS cases from year to year mostly comes from sexual factors by 74%. A rapid study conducted by ALPHA-I on transgender, MSM and transgender has increased. The increase in the prevalence of waria and MSM from 2009 to 2013, namely in 2009 the prevalence of transgender was 5.8% and MSM was 2.5%, while in 2013 the prevalence of waria was 8.2% and MSM was 7.4% (Ministry of Health of Republic Indonesia, 2016). The spread of HIV/AIDS has a fairly high number, especially in the Madiun Regency area based on risk groups, namely private officers as much as 51%, housewives as much as 21%, female sex officers customers as much as 21.17% and waria as much as 1.99% by group. the age of people living with HIV/AIDS in their productive age is 16-40 years.

Transgenders are one of the groups at risk for the spread of HIV/AIDS. Compliance with VCT services as a key predictor of the success of early screening for the presence of HIV/AIDS in the target area. Knowledge, behavioural, family support, peer support, support from health officers and willingness to access high-level VCT services for compliance are needed in order to suppress the exposure of HIV/AIDS in Indonesia (Ministry of Health of Republic Indonesia, 2020). Compliance is also a form of encouragement for transgender peers to become motivated to carry out VCT and obediently participate in using VCT services. Voluntary Counseling and Testing as a form of bridge for the government's efforts to capture the initial presence of HIV/AIDS for sufferers. According to the method of preventing HIV transmission, one of them is by using the VCT counseling method voluntarily. VCT is also effective and efficient in reducing the level of community stigma and supporting human rights, especially for transgender who are entitled to professional and equitable VCT health services. There are 2 types of VCT,

namely mobile VCT clinic and static VCT clinic.

The Madiun Regency Regional HIV/AIDS Control Commission initiated VCT with counseling socialization conducted by counselors and Regional AIDS Commission officers of Madiun Regency with the aim of providing a form of basic information about HIV/AIDS and the use of VCT services and then continued with informed consent. The prevalence of the decline in the presence of transgender who take part in the implementation of the VCT test is due to the pandemic that has supported Indonesia since last March. reduce the spread of Covid-19.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The research method used is quantitative research as a research method to examine certain populations or samples. This type of research is correlation research which is to explain the relationship between variables. While the research design uses cross sectional, namely research that emphasizes the measurement time of data observation of independent and dependent variables only once at a time.

Cross sectional is a research that studies the dynamics of correlation or the relationship between risk factors and effects, by means of an observation approach or data research at one time (point time approach). This study analyzes the factors that affect the compliance of VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing) test services for transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic in Madiun Regency 2021.

The population in this study were 86 transgenders, then the researcher took a sample with a random sampling system using the Slovin formula so as to get a sample of 69 transgender respondents. The inclusion criteria in the study were transgenders who joined the Madiun Transgender Association, transgender registered with the AIDS Commission of Madiun Regency until February 2021, transgender who had participated in VCT health



services every 3 months and transgender who were willing to become respondents. As for the exclusion criteria, transgender who are healthy and loyal to their partners/customers, transgender who conduct VCT test counseling once a year, and transgender who have just been registered with Regional AIDS Commission since February 2021.

This study uses 2 types of data, namely primary data, data obtained from research conducted on 69 transgender respondents and secondary data from data collection on the number of transgender until February 2021 at Regional AIDS Commission. The independent variables in this study were knowledge, behavioural, family support, peer support, support from health officers and VCT services. While the dependent variable in this study is the compliance of VCT test services during the Covid-19 pandemic (Regional AIDS Commission, 2020).

This study used an interview technique with the key respondent, namely the chairman of Madiun Transgender Association, a visit was made to his house to ask for approval to become a respondent voluntarily without any coercion. In order to meet directly with key respondents, researchers must also collaborate with the AIDS Commission of Madiun Regency so that researchers are facilitated to be able to meet and conduct interviews with key respondents. Researchers are obliged to introduce themselves, then explain the aims and objectives of the research. Each respondent who is willing is obliged to sign an informed consent form and to find out transgender compliance in VCT, secondary data from the Regional AIDS Commission is needed in the form of an attendance list when doing mobile VCT.

With all the limitations during the Pandemic, the researchers also made media in the form of a questionnaire in the form of a google form to anticipate physical distancing and always implement health protocols according to the Indonesian government's

appeal. Then the data were analyzed univariately and bivariately using the Chi-Square test on the SPSS Version 16.0 software application. Confidence intervals were set at 95% with α -value of <0.05 was interpreted as statistically significant.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Knowledge of VCT test service compliance during the covid-19 pandemic

Table 1. the results of the influence of the knowledge factor on VCT services

Knowl edge	VCT compliance with transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic					PR (95 % CI)	P- Val ue
	Not		Obey		Total		
	N	%	N	%	N		
Less	1 0	47 .6	1 1	52 .4	2 1	1 0	3,9 0 39 29
Good	9	18 .8	3 9	81 .2	4 8	1 0	0
Total	1 9	27 .5	5 0	72 .5	6 9	1 0	0

Based on the table above, the results of the influence of the knowledge factor on VCT service compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic in transgender in Madiun Regency were obtained as many as 10 (47.6%) respondents had poor knowledge and did not comply with VCT tests regularly every 3 months, while 9 (18.8%) respondents had good knowledge but did not comply with the VCT test. Based on table 3.1, the p value = 0.029 < (0.05) so that H1 is accepted which means that there is an influence between the knowledge factor on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The influence of behavioural factors on VCT service compliance

Table 2. the influence of behavioural factors on VCT services

Behavioural	VCT compliance with transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic						PR (95% CI)	P-Value
	Not		Obey		Total			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Negative	1	63.2	7	36.8	1	10	10,531	0.000
Positive	7	14	4	86	5	10		
Total	1	27.5	5	72.5	6	10		

Based on the results of table 2 above, the results show that the influence of behavioural factors on VCT service compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic on transgender in Madiun Regency obtained as many as 12 (63.2%) behavioural of negative respondents and did not comply with VCT tests every 3 months routinely. , while 7 (14%) respondents had a positive behavioural but did not comply with the VCT test. Based on table 5.10, the p value = 0.000 < (0.05) so that H1 is accepted, which means that there is an influence between the behavioural factors towards VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The influence of family support factors on VCT service compliance

Table 3. the result of family support on VCT services

Family support	VCT compliance with transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic						PR (95% CI)	P-Value
	Not		Obey		Total			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Doesn't support	1	54.5	1	45.5	2	10	6,857	0.002
Support	7	14	4	85.5	4	10		
Total	1	27.5	5	72.5	6	10		

Based on the results of table 3 above, the results show that the influence of family

support factors on VCT service compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic among waria in Madiun Regency obtained as many as 12 (54.5%) family support from respondents who did not support and did not comply with VCT tests during routine Once every 3 months, while out of 10 (45.5%) family support respondents who support but do not comply do the VCT test. Based on table 3.3, the p value = 0.002 < (0.05) so H1 is accepted which means that there is an influence between family support factors on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The influence of peer support factors on VCT service compliance

Table 4. the result of peer support on VCT services

Peer support	VCT compliance with transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic						PR (95% CI)	P-Value
	Not		Obey		Total			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Doesn't support	1	47.8	1	52.2	2	10	4,354	0.017
Support	8	17.4	3	82.6	4	10		
Total	1	27.5	5	72.5	6	10		

Based on the results of table 4 above, the results show that the influence of peer support factors on VCT service compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic on waria in Madiun Regency obtained as many as 11 (47.8%) peer support who did not support and did not comply with VCT tests during routinely every 3 months, while 8 (17.4%) respondents had supportive peer support but did not comply with the VCT test. Based on table 3.4, the p value = 0.017 < (0.05) so H1 is accepted, which means that there is an influence between peer support factors on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.



The influence of factors that support health officers on VCT service compliance

Table 5. The result of Health Officer Support on VCT Services

Health officer support	VCT compliance with transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic						PR (95% CI)	P-Value
	Not		Obey		Total			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Doesn't support	1	50	1	50	2	10	5,429	0.006
	2		2		4	0		
Support	7	15.6	3	84.4	4	10		
		6		8	4	5		
Total	1	27.1	5	72.9	6	10		
	9	5	0	5	9	0		

Based on the results of table 5 above, it was found that the influence of the support factor of health officers on compliance with VCT services during the Covid-19 pandemic in transgender in Madiun Regency was obtained as many as 12 (50%) respondents for the support of health officers who did not support and did not comply with VCT tests during routine Once every 3 months, while out of 7 (15.6%) health officers who support but do not comply with the VCT test. Based on table 3.5, the p value = 0.006 < (0.05) so that H1 is accepted, which means that there is an influence between the factors of health officer support on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The influence of VCT service factors on VCT service compliance

Table 6. The Influence of VCT Services on Compliance of VCT Services

VCT Service	VCT compliance with transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic						PR (95% CI)	P-Value
	Not		Obey		Total			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Nothing	1	65	7	35	2	10	13,310	0.000
	3				0	0		
There is	6	12	4	87	4	10		
		2		3	8	9		
Total	1	27.1	5	72.9	6	10		
	9	5	0	5	9	0		

Based on the results of table 6 above, the results show that the influence of VCT service factors on VCT service compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic in transgender in Madiun Regency was obtained as many as 13 (65%) for VCT services that did not exist or did not meet service standards and did not comply with testing. VCT is routine every 3 months, while from 7 (35%) for VCT services that do not exist or do not meet service standards, there are still respondents who do VCT tests. Based on table 3.6, the p value = 0.000 < (0.05) so that H1 is accepted, which means that there is an influence between VCT service factors on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Discussion

Lawrence Green Behavior Causes theory shows that there are factors that influence behavior, namely predisposing factors, reinforcing factors and supporting factors. The predisposing factors are knowledge, behavioural, age and education level of waria in carrying out VCT tests voluntarily without coercion. Reinforcing factors consist of information media and counseling for VCT test services, and supporting factors include family support, peer support and health officer support. Based on the results of the bivariate analysis, the p value (0.029) < α (0.05) means that there is an influence between the knowledge factor on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be seen from the results of the frequency distribution of the knowledge factor of the respondents, as many as 48 (69.6%) who have good knowledge and as many as 21 (30, 4%) who have less knowledge. Meanwhile, the risky value of the RP is 3.939 (1,283-12,097) which means that respondents who have less knowledge will be at risk of not complying with the VCT test 3.9 times.

The influence of the knowledge factor on VCT service compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic is in accordance with the theory ((Prof. Dr. Soekidjo Notoatmodjo, 2014), states



that knowledge is the result of human sensing or the result of someone knowing about objects through their senses such as eyes, ears, nose, and so on. It can be proven that respondent's knowledge can affect adherence to VCT testing during the Covid-19 pandemic, which is in accordance with Yunida Halim and Syamsulhuda's 2016 study, namely the relationship between respondents' knowledge and behavior of VCT test examinations as an early screening for HIV disease.

This is in accordance with research research (R Zachariah MBBS DTM&H and AD Harries MD rRDP OBE, 2003)entitled "Motives, sexual behaviour, and risk factors associated with HIV in individuals seeking voluntary counseling and testing in a rural district of Malawi". With the following quote "This study shows that recent knowledge about HIV/AIDS and the subsequent wish to know one's HIV status is the most important reason for undergoing VCT in a rural district in Malawi" which proves that current knowledge about HIV/AIDS and desires to find out one's HIV status is the most important reason for undergoing a VCT test in the district of Malawi. The higher the respondent's knowledge, the more obedient the respondent is to perform the VCT test to check his or her own health. According to researchers,

The influence of behavioural factors on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic is in accordance with theory (Notoadmodjo, 2014)who argues that behavioural is a form of a person's closed response to a particular stimulus or object that already involves opinion and emotional factors. Behaviours also have 3 main components, namely the existence of trust or belief, emotional life or evaluation and a tendency to act. Respondents have behaviours that are divided into 2, namely positive and negative. A positive behavioural is a combination of three components of a complete behavioural (Total Behavioural). From the explanation above, 43 respondents have a positive behavioural with a

percentage of (86%). Research conducted by Maskuniawan and Muhammad Azinar (2018) states that the more agree with the behavioural of receiving VCT services, the higher risk groups for HIV positive can be identified so as to reduce HIV transmission.

The influence of family support factors on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic because family support is an act of family acceptance of family members in the form of support, information, instrumental and emotional support in accordance with theory. (Friedman in Setiana, 2016). This is in line with the research of Maskuniawan and Muhammad Azinar,2018 family support can be in the form of encouragement in the form of information about HIV/AIDS and VCT tests, as well as attention and assistance from parents and families.

According to the researcher, family support is the spearhead of respondents to comply with VCT tests during the Covid-19 pandemic because the closest relatives are families who are able to provide all forms of support, both emotional and material. The sense of caring in the family makes the respondent comfortable without any sense of discrimination. This is in accordance with research by Hesthi Kristinawati, 2016 which revealed thatthere is a positive relationship between family support and service quality with the motivation to visit HIV/AIDS patients at the Surakarta VCT Poly.

The influence between peer support factors on VCT service compliance for transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic makes principles in which there is a sense of shared responsibility and mutual help when needed. True peers can report positive and negative impacts so that respondents must first filter before being swallowed raw (Santrrock, 2011). According to Green in Notoadmodjo (2010), a support or encouragement is an example of a very influential reinforcing factor in a behavior. Apart from fellow waria peers,



encouragement can also be obtained from the field and health officers and their partners. This is in accordance with Arisdiani's research, 2015 forms of support can be obtained in the form of participation from groups, health officers, NGOs and other government institutions.

The influence of the support factor of health officers on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic makes the behavior of respondents or individuals in accordance with the expected position leading to better changes and awareness of health. According to the researcher, with the support of good health officers, it is in accordance with their work as a communicator, namely people who provide information to the public, especially transgender, as motivators who give motivation to strengthen themselves mentally, as facilitators and good counselors are able to create a comfortable atmosphere when respondents are conduct pre and post VCT counseling.

This is supported by research by Purwaningsih et al (2011), which states that 52% of respondents feel there is a strong motivating factor in the form of support from friends, family and health officers to perform VCT tests. But during the Covid-19 pandemic, there were also obstacles in health services for the form of socialization and a minority of respondents also felt afraid to visit health services with the motive of being infected with Covid-19 so that all forms of activity had to be canceled. On the other hand, creative ideas have also emerged by health officers to serve online counseling and online-based health seminars so that respondents continue to receive direction and monitoring from health officers. This research is supported by Mujiati (2013), revealing that health officers need a form of evaluation,

There is an influence between VCT service factors on VCT service compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic where service standards are the spearhead of

determining service quality from adequate facilities, skilled medical personnel and counselors who are able to create comfortable relationships with clients or patients. In the midst of the pandemic, an appeal for health protocols was also applied by providing a sink in front of the room, the instructions were to keep a distance and some even used no queues by online to reduce the mobility of the crowd of patients who would check, especially the VCT test.

This is supported by research by (R Zachariah MBBS DTM&H and AD Harries MD rRDP OBE, 2003) entitled "Motives, sexual behaviour, and risk factors associated with HIV in individuals seeking voluntary counseling and testing in a rural district of Malawi". With the following quote "Third, good links have been established between the hospital counseling service and community care groups including an association of people living with HIV and AIDS. This has made it possible to refer ill or destitute HIV infected individuals to the community for continuing social support, home based care, management of basic opportunistic infections and nutritional supplementation." Which proves that good relations have been established between hospital counseling services and community care groups including associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

According to the researcher, the existence of services that meet standards will increase the self-awareness intention of transgenders to comply with VCT tests voluntarily without any coercion. This is also supported by research research (Jing Zhang and Wei-ming Tang, 2019) entitled "Hight acceptance of HIV self-testing among PrEP recipients before COVID-19 era: a cross-sectional analysis from PrEP demonstration project of MSM in China" with the quote "There were 1184 MSM (96.9%) accepted to use HIVST between each quarterly clinic visits during PrEP usage, composing 947 (77.5%) very willing to, 237 19.4% willing to, 29 (2.4%) unwilling to, and 9 (0.7%) very



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unwilling to." Which revealed that between each quarterly service clinic visit during the use of PrEP, many respondents were willing because the service met the standards.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

Transgenders who are members of the transgenders organization in Madiun have complied with the VCT test service during the Covid-19 pandemic which is carried out every 3 months. Factors influencing VCT compliance in transgender during the Covid-19 pandemic in Kab. Madiun 2021, namely knowledge, behavioural, family support, peer support, support from health officers and VCT services.

Recommendation

The results of this study are expected to be used as supporting data and references in improving the quality of health services, especially VCT tests for groups at risk of spreading HIV/AIDS in Madiun Regency. Socialization of health promotions and protocols should be more encouraged and carried out on a scheduled basis in all working areas of the Madiun Regency.

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