

Abstract

Background: The rising tuberculosis (TB) incidence has become one of the main health issues in the world. Although some interventions for the prevention and treatment of TB have been developed, the incidence and mortality rates of TB continue increasing. High incidence of TB in Indonesia is also due to the lack of knowledge about preventing the spread of TB. The objective of this study is to understand TB knowledge and what factors may predict students' TB knowledge among University students in Indonesia.

Methods: This study included a total of two hundred students at Muhammadiyah University of Tasikmalaya. Convenient sampling was used to recruit students for the study. Univariate analysis utilized, such as t-test and one-way ANOVA used to test the knowledge score between different levels of categorical variables. The Pearson correlations coefficient was used for investigating correlations between continuous variables. Multiple linear regressions were used to understand which factors can predict the TB knowledge.

Results: Overall, the mean score for TB knowledge among the students was 9.49 out of 14, at the time of data collection. Most of the respondents (62%) were male, and included several ethnicities, such as Sunda (81.5%) and non-Sunda (18.5%). The variables associated with TB knowledge were gender, education, major field of study, and heard of TB. Moreover, the study found that, as predictors, the variables that influenced knowledge about TB ranked according to relevance were: major field of study and educational background.

Conclusion: Major field of study and educational background are recognized as a significant predictors of TB knowledge among students at Muhammadiyah University of Tasikmalaya. Health promotion among students is very important to improve their knowledge related to TB disease. The findings could be used for designing the university strategic programs in measuring the knowledge of TB among their students. Students with accurate knowledge of TB can help reduce its prevalence in Indonesia.

Keywords: Tuberculosis, Knowledge, Indonesia.