

Improving Knowledge, Perception and Skills of Health Cadres in Sidorejo Village, Kemalang, Klaten as an Effort to Prevent Early Marriage and Stunting

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ABSTRACT

This community service program aims to: 1) improve the knowledge and skills of health cadres as the frontline agent for communication, information, and education regarding reproductive health and nutritional awareness, and 2) empower health cadres as community educators to prevent early marriage and stunting. The implementation was carried out by intense training and mentoring mini projects. Evaluation is carried out by measuring the level of knowledge, perception, and the ability of health cadres in carrying out their own mini projects. The training was carried out fulltime offline followed by project mentoring for two months. The results showed that the attendance rate of participants was 92%, the average of pretest, posttest and gain scores were 60, 72 and 23%, respectively. The average perception level of participants after the training was 8.17, belong to good category. Overall, there was an increase in the skills of health cadres, nonetheless, only 5 health cadres had completed their mini projects. In conclusion, this program has succeeded in increasing knowledge and perception of health cadres about reproductive health and nutritional awareness, but a follow-up program is still needed so that Sidorejo Village cadres become reliable agents for communication, information and educator to prevent early marriage and stunting.

Kata Kunci: *early marriage, health cadres, nutrition awareness, stunting, reproductive health*