ABSTRACT

Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) have a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS due to their multiple and frequent changes in sexual encounters with different partners, and the anal intercourse practices. VCT is one of the effective strategies of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. VCT utilization is a key leading to the prevention of the entrance of HIV and AIDS. Whereas the access to VCT services by MSM is still considered as low by the reason of the stigma and stereotypes against MSM and HIV/AIDS itself. This study is intended to explore the factors related to the MSM willingness to conduct VCT.

This study used a qualitative method. We identified 9 key informants through snowball sampling method at IGAMA Malang Community. Data was collected by in-depth interview, analyzing descriptively, and presenting in a narrative.

The results show that most of the informants are on their productive age and highly educated. Informant has an adequate of knowledge concerning the HIV/AIDS and VCT. However, access to VCT services is still constrained by the schedule since most of the services are in the work days. The impetus for accessing VCT derived largely from community friends (Field Officer) and partner, while there is no support from family because most of them have yet to confess their sexual identity. With respect to the societal stigma and discrimination towards homosexuals, we did not recognize personal stigmatizing attitude and discriminatory behaviors by health workers. It makes them feel convenient because they are close and familiar to the health workers.

This study conclude that factors affecting MSM in IGAMA to access VCT services includes knowledge and awareness concerning the HIV/AIDS and VCT, the perception of the VCT, information about VCT, the availability of the services, peer supports, and the attitudes or behavior of health workers. We suggested that VCT services would be better if could be performed also in the weekends.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, MSM, VCT Utilization