ABSTRACT
The Increase of the Role of Patients in Finding Pulmonary TB Suspects in Palu

TB patients need to be empowered by giving sufficient information on TB, the importance of TB prevention and control, and TB patients’ rights and obligations. Empowering TB patients is a strategy included in TB control national strategy in Indonesia 2011-2014. The purpose of this study was to increase the role of the patients in finding pulmonary TB suspects in Palu. This study was a pre experimental study with action research approach. The sample of this study was all Pulmonary TB patients in the first trimester of the year 2012, which were 45 patients. Study results showed the characteristics of the respondents were: 53.3% were aged < 40 years old, 55.6% were male, 62.2% had high education and 68.9% were unemployed. Knowledge showed change during pretest and posttest, the role of patients in finding suspect was 33.3%, appropriate recording was 86.7% and appropriate reporting was 93.3%. The number of suspects found was 17 suspects by 15 patients. The characteristics of pulmonary TB patients in Palu were mostly < 40 years old, male, had high education and were unemployed. Intervention in the form of training could change pulmonary TB patients’ knowledge, suspect find was possible, recording and reporting were appropriately done. The characteristics of respondents such as age, sex, job and knowledge level influenced the role of the patient in finding suspects, while education didn’t appear to have influence. The number of pulmonary TB suspects found through the increase in the role of the patients was 17 suspects, and 3 were positive.

Keyword: Pulmonary TB, Suspects Finding, Role of Patients.