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Original Article

## A pilot study of cadre training to promote responsible self-medication in Indonesia: Which is better specific or general modules?

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## Abstract

In 2015, the Indonesian Government initiated 'Smart Use of Medications Movement' ('GeMa CerMat') which included cadre training to promote responsible self-medication. Evaluation of a pilot training conducted across Indonesia suggested the need to improve those training modules. This study aimed to assess cadre' knowledge gained following training with newly developed general or specific training modules. Five types of modules were developed and used to train cadres at five Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Surabaya, Indonesia: 1) Sidosermo CHC (general-drugs module), 2) Tenggilis CHC (common cold drugs module), 3) Gunung Anyar CHC (analgesic drugs module), 4) Kalirungkut CHC (anti-diarrhoeal drugs module), and 5) Jagir CHC (indigestion drugs module). Cadres' knowledge improvements were evaluated using pre-/post-test scores and the difference scores depending on the module being tested. Multifactorial ANOVA explored the effects of the type of module on difference scores. A total of 279 cadres across five CHCs were involved in the training, giving response rates from 65% to 93%. There was an increase in the post-test scores after the training with all modules. However, significant differences were reported only for the specific-drugs module groups (all  $p < .001$ ). Furthermore, the general module group had the lowest difference score (1.12; 95% CI [-0.45, 2.92]) while the common cold module group had the highest gain (5.02; 95% CI [1.95, 5.17]). Multifactorial ANOVA revealed that there was a significant main effect of the type of modules on difference scores [ $F(4, 263) = 8.37, p < .001$ ]. In conclusion, this preliminary study indicated that the development of modules for specific minor illnesses could be beneficial in facilitating effective community-based training to promote responsible self-medication in Indonesia. The priority for therapeutic areas chosen for the module should be based on the local needs. Further research is required to confirm the findings in broader community members.



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