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Article

Efforts to Improve Children's Understanding of Medicines through the Little Pharmacist Program: Community Service by Andalas University Students at SDN 05 Padang Sago Elementary School

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Article Information	Abstract
Received : 2025-06-06 Revised : 2025-07-09 Accepted : 2025-09-10 Published: 2025-10-16	Drugs are dangerous chemicals that are used to diagnose physiological and pathophysiological systems, restore and improve health. The large number of cases found related to drug abuse is caused by a lack of knowledge about rational drug use, drug storage, and others. Based on this problem, one of the health workers who plays an important role is the pharmacist. “Apoteker Cilik” is a program that promoted by Regular KKN Phase I students at Universitas Andalas in 2025 as an effort to prevent drug abuse and branding the pharmacist profession from an early age. This activity includes the delivery of educational and interactive material regarding the introduction of the pharmacist profession, introduction to drugs, types of drugs, and DAGUSIBU by 2 presenters. At the end of the session, students filled out a questionnaire with the scoring results showing that of the 40 participants who attended, 97% had good knowledge regarding the material that had been presented.
Keywords	
Drugs education, Junior pharmacist, Apocil, Program, Health	
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INTRODUCTION

Medicines are hazardous chemicals that can only be used for specific indications. Based on Law No. 36 of 2009, medicines are substances or combinations of substances, including biological products, that are used to influence or investigate physiological systems or pathological conditions for the purpose of diagnosis, prevention, cure, recovery, health improvement, and human contraception (Atmadani, 2020). Therefore, children need to be introduced to medicines to prevent drug abuse.

Various health problems related to the use of medicines are still commonly found in the community, such as a lack of knowledge about the irrational use of medicines, drug abuse, side effects of medicines, the circulation of counterfeit medicines, drugs and other dangerous substances, medicine management, medicine storage, and other health problems related to medicines. The cause of these problems is the lack of public awareness of the importance of proper medication use and management. The use of medication, especially in children, needs special attention because not all children find it easy to take medication when they are sick. On the other hand, children need to receive a lot of information about various professions in order to broaden their knowledge and motivate them to learn (Andriana, 2020).

One of the health workers who has expertise in the field of medicine is a pharmacist. Pharmacists, as health workers, have been recognized in Indonesia through Government Regulation No. 51 of 2009 concerning pharmaceutical work (Anidya, 2013). Many people still do not understand the duties and roles of pharmacists in public health. Therefore, it is very important to promote pharmacists from an early age.

This is in line with the campaign carried out by the WHO in explaining and emphasizing health promotion activities in elementary schools (Syafitri, 2023).

Currently, the empowerment of health education programs and health services at an early age, especially at the elementary school level, has begun to develop. For example, there are many health programs such as junior pharmacists run by elementary schools in Indonesia. This is in line with the campaign that has been carried out by the WHO Global School Health Initiative since 1995 in an effort to implement and emphasize health promotion activities at the local, national, regional, and global levels (Octavia, 2019).

The little pharmacist is an idea that aims to raise awareness of the pharmacist profession. This explanation is an important basis for branding the pharmacist profession from an early age, especially among elementary school students. In addition, it is also expected to improve public health while introducing the pharmacist profession to children and enhancing the positive image of the pharmacist profession among the community (Anidya, 2013).

The APOCIL activities that will be carried out include education related to the pharmacist profession, the proper use of medicines, and DAGUSIBU through active interaction. The target audience for this program is students in grades 1 to 6 at Elementary School 05 Padang Sago. It is hoped that through the APOCIL program, young pharmacists will emerge who understand how to use medicines properly and correctly and are enthusiastic about becoming pharmacists in the future.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

The “Little Pharmacist (APOCIL)” activity is one of the work programs of the Regular Community Service Program Phase I of Andalas University in Nagari Koto Baru. This “Little Pharmacist (APOCIL)” community service activity was carried out at SDN 05 Padang Sago, Kecamatan VII Koto Padang Sago, Padang Pariaman Regency, West Sumatra on Thursday, January 23, 2025. The Little Pharmacist activity was aimed at 40 students in grades 1 to 6. The stages in the implementation of the Little Pharmacist (APOCIL) activity included initial preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the activity.

The first stage involved initial preparations, such as surveying the activity location, obtaining activity permits, and preparing the necessary tools and materials. The location survey was conducted by visiting SDN 05 Padang Sago to obtain activity permits and discuss with the principal and teachers to plan the time and place for the activity. In addition, preparations were made for tools and materials to support the activity, such as an activity rundown, preparation of materials and teaching aids, preparation of songs and videos as media to support understanding of the material to be delivered, preparation of questionnaires for activity evaluation, borrowing a projector and speakers from the school, and preparation of rewards for participants.

The second stage is implementation. The implementation method for this socialization program is designed to be interactive and interesting for students by adopting the Little Pharmacist approach. This activity includes the delivery of educational material on the introduction to the pharmacist profession, introduction to medicines, types of medicines, and DAGUSIBU by two presenters who are pharmacy students. A question and answer session is held to encourage active participation and deepen students' understanding. In addition, creative learning media are used, such as medicine-themed songs to help participants memorize simple types of drugs and their characteristics, crossword puzzles related to the material presented to reduce boredom during the delivery of the material, and informative videos to clarify important concepts related to pharmacy and the material presented.

The final stage is evaluation as feedback and a tool to assess the success of the activities carried out. Students are given a questionnaire designed to measure the increase in participants' knowledge and understanding after participating in this APOCIL activity. Students are asked to complete the same questionnaire containing 5 questions by choosing one correct answer. The activity ends with the giving of rewards and a group photo.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The activity began with the introduction of Andalas University KKN students in Nagari Koto Baru to the teachers and students of SDN 05 Padang Sago, led by a moderator. The Little Pharmacist activity lasted for approximately 90 minutes at SDN 05 Padang Sago, Kecamatan VII Koto Padang Sago, Kabupaten Padang Pariaman, West Sumatra, and was attended by 40 students.

The Little Pharmacist activity began with a presentation by two KKN students from the Pharmacy study program, who introduced the profession of pharmacist to the students of SDN 05 Padang Sago. During the introduction to the pharmacist profession, the students appeared enthusiastic about learning about pharmacists and were able to understand the duties and roles of a pharmacist. This was evident during the question-and-answer session, where the students were able to answer questions about the duties of a pharmacist.



Figure 1. Presentation of Material

Next, in order to deepen understanding and increase interest, an educational video relevant to the material was played. During this session, the students appeared interested in the video and were able to draw conclusions from what they had seen. Then, material was presented on medicines, their classification, and a song designed specifically to help students memorize the types of medicines commonly used. In this session, the students were very enthusiastic and were able to quickly remember the types of drugs and their characteristics thanks to the use of songs as a medium. This was evident in the students' enthusiasm in coming forward and reciting songs about the types of drugs.



Figure 2. Video Screening and Singing

During the final stage of the presentation, material on DAGUSIBU (Obtain, Use, Store, Dispose) was also presented to provide an understanding of how to obtain, use, store, and dispose of medicines properly. As a fun interlude, students were invited to fill in a crossword puzzle related to the material that had been presented, as well as to test their understanding. In this session, students were encouraged to explore their understanding of the material that had been presented through creative media, and their high level of interest was evident as all students wanted to answer the crossword puzzles provided.



Figure 3. Filling out the TTS

Next is the completion of a questionnaire as a form of evaluation of the effectiveness of the activity. The questions given in the questionnaire consist of 5 items with multiple choice questions. The assessment for drawing conclusions is determined by comparing the scores as follows:

$$\text{Score} = \frac{\text{Achieved score}}{\text{Maximum Score}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{Wahdini, 2022})$$

The criteria used are as follows:

- a. 76-100% correct answers: good performance
- b. 56-75% correct answers: fairly good performance
- c. 40-55% correct answers: poor performance
- d. < 40% correct answers: very poor performance

Students' ability to understand the material can be concluded from the questionnaire results. The scoring results show that of the 40 participants present, 97% had good knowledge of the material presented, 2% had fairly good knowledge, and 1% had poor knowledge. Overall, it appears that the material presented was well understood by the students.



Figure 4. Completing the Questionnaire

The event concluded with the presentation of rewards to active students and to all students as appreciation for their participation, as well as a group photo session to capture this moment of togetherness.



Figure 5. Group Photo

CONCLUSION

Based on the Little Pharmacist activity carried out at SDN 05 Padang Sago, it can be concluded that this program has successfully introduced the profession of pharmacist and increased students' understanding of medicines and DAGUSIBU. The students' enthusiasm was evident from their active participation during the material presentation, question and answer session, and crossword puzzle completion. The use of learning media such as videos and songs was effective in helping students understand and memorize the information provided. The results of the evaluation through questionnaires showed that most students (97%) had a good level of understanding of the material presented. This activity is expected to leave a positive impression and increase students' interest in pharmacy.

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