
COMMUNITY MOBILISATION IN DENGUE OUTBREAK CONTROL AS A WAY FORWARD: A CASE STUDY FROM KLUANG DISTRICT

Muhamad Redzuan Jokiram
Kluang District Health Office

Khalsom Samsudin
Kluang District Health Office

Linayanti Rosli
Kluang District Health Office

Hamenudin Hamzah
Kluang District Health Office

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Number of dengue cases in Malaysia in year 2024 is rising on a sharper trajectory compared with the same period last year including Kluang. A dengue outbreak (hotspot) occurred in Taman Sri Lambak, Kluang from 21 October until 7 December 2023 (47 days). Despite various control measures implemented during the early part of the outbreak, lack of cooperation from the local community was the main issue. *Objective:* Community mobilization program, “Communication For Behavioural Impact (COMBI) Combat Aedes” was conducted to empower the community members to implement control measures for dengue outbreak, provide health education and to increase community cooperation and participation in dengue control measures. *Methodology:* A COMBI taskforce was organized, whereby COMBI volunteers from the local community were given a workshop to provide the skill to conduct dengue control activities and provide health education to the community. Among the activities include mass search and destroy, larvaciding, modified active case detection and health promotions. *Observation* was made during the outbreak period. *Results:* 32 volunteers from local community were involved in the COMBI taskforce. More than 200 premises were inspected with a total of 43 mosquito breeding containers destroyed. A noticeable reduction in mosquito breeding sites was observed following multiple search and destroy sessions. *Qualitative evaluation* revealed that some community members were more receptive to activities conducted by COMBI volunteers compared to the health personnel. *Intensive engagement* with leaders and COMBI members is one of the fundamental factors in curbing the outbreak, highlighting the effectiveness of community-driven initiatives. *Conclusion :* This study suggests that community mobilization is the way forward to control dengue outbreak. It is recommended that COMBI programs be integrated into outbreak management, with continuous training and empowerment of volunteers to maintain vigilance and prevent future outbreaks.

Keywords: Dengue, community, outbreaks
