THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS AMONG OLDER PERSONS IN AN INDIAN URBAN SETTING

Eko Setiawan, Jatie K Poedijudjono, Marseius Sampie Tondok

Abstract

The unmet health care needs among older persons population should be identified and anticipated due to hidden potential impacts. Ironically, no published study regarding this phenomenon was found in Indonesia. Derived from the Indonesian population and civil data, this study was conducted in order to identify the healthcare needs of urban older people living on Java Island, the most populated island in Indonesia. A qualitative study was conducted in 3 sub-districts in Surabaya, the capital city of East Java, namely: Runegut, Kerjean, and Tenggilis. There were 9 focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted during March-August 2015. Participants in this study were recruited purposively, i.e. person in charge of “Kurang Werda.” and the discussion explored thematically various topics in the area of unmet health needs phenomena related to: 1) availability, 2) accessibility, and 3) acceptability. A focus group discussion guide was developed in order to ensure in-depth discussion. There were 90 older persons serving as volunteers who participated in this study. The unmet health care needs addressed by participants in this study were: 1) integrated and specialized health care services for older persons, and 2) skillful yet age-friendly health care personnel were needed by participants. Our findings pointed out that the unmet health care needs in urban settings were classified as primarily availability, accessibility, and acceptability. The government needs to take actions in order to solve the challenges related to the fulfilment of health care needs among older persons in Indonesia. Further study of the health care personnel’s beliefs and attitudes in providing care among older persons needs to be conducted in order to provide a more holistic picture of the phenomena before making any strategy for future Indonesia’s health care system.

References


