

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE LEVEL TOWARDS THE USE OF GENERIC DRUGS IN TUPA VILLAGE, NORTH BULANGO DISTRICT, BONE BOLANGO REGENCY, GORONTALO PROVINCE, IN 2022

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ABSTRACT

Generic drugs are medications with generic names, as defined by the Indonesian Pharmacopoeia and International Non-proprietary Names (INN) from the WHO, and they do not use trade names or manufacturer logos. Examples of these include amoxicillin and metformin. The public often perceives generic drugs to be inferior to patented drugs because of their relatively lower prices. The purpose of this study is to describe the knowledge level of the community about the use of generic drugs in Desa Tupa, Kecamatan Bulango Utara, Kabupaten Bone Bolango in 2022. This study employs a descriptive method using a quantitative approach. Data were collected through questionnaires that were distributed to 30 randomly selected respondents. A univariate analysis was conducted by creating frequency distributions to determine the community's awareness level regarding generic drugs. The survey results indicated that most residents of Desa Tupa have limited information about the use of generic drugs. The study concluded that, in terms of knowledge level about generic drugs, 30% of respondents had heard of generic drugs, 22% knew that generic drugs were named according to INN (International Non-proprietary Names), 11% understood that generic drugs are those that have expired patents, 9% recognize that generic drugs do not use brand names, and 28% are aware that generic drugs are more affordable than branded drugs. In terms of community perceptions about generic drugs, 28% perceived generic drugs as cheap, 33% saw them as a government program, 32% believed generic drugs were free, 6% thought they were for poor patients, and 1% considered generic drugs to be of lower quality compared to branded drugs. These data show that the community in Desa Tupa still has limited knowledge about generic drugs and various perceptions about generic drug services. Therefore, more intensive education and socialization efforts are needed to understand the safety and quality of generic drugs. This is crucial for ensuring the appropriate and effective use of medications in the community.

Keywords: *knowledge level, generic drugs, Tupa village*

INTRODUCTION

The use of generic drugs in Indonesia is part of the government's efforts to improve access to effective and affordable treatments for the public. Generic drugs have the same composition, quality, and effectiveness as their brand-name counterparts but are sold at lower prices. This is crucial for Indonesia's healthcare system, where the affordability of medical treatments is a major concern for many people. (Yanti, 2021)

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia actively promotes the use of generic drugs through various policies and programs, including the Logo Generic Drug Program (OGB). The goal of this program is to ensure that all segments of the population

have access to high-quality medications at lower prices. ([Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia., 2021](#)) According to the Ministry of Health, the use of generic drugs in Indonesia has significantly increased in recent years. In 2020, the use of generic drugs rose to about 50% of all medications dispensed in public healthcare facilities. ([Departemen Kesehatan Republik Indonesia., 2018](#))

Despite the government's issuance of various guidelines to encourage the use of generic drugs, public knowledge and understanding of generic drugs still varies. Some people continue to question the quality and effectiveness of generic drugs compared with branded drugs. This lack of understanding can hinder government efforts to expand the availability of generic drugs throughout Indonesia, including in rural areas such as Desa Tupa, Kecamatan Bulango Utara, Kabupaten Bone Bolango, Provinsi Gorontalo.

The aim of this research is to describe the knowledge level of residents of Desa Tupa regarding the use of generic drugs. By understanding the general level of knowledge, it is hoped that factors influencing their understanding can be identified, and actions can be taken to improve education and acceptance of generic drugs in the community ([Badan Pengawas Obat dan Makanan \(BPOM\), 2019](#))

Several previous studies have investigated public knowledge of and attitudes towards the use of generic drugs in various regions of Indonesia. These studies highlight disparities in public knowledge and understanding and emphasize the need for improved education on generic drugs. ([Putri, 2021](#))

1. Study in Kecamatan Sukajadi ([Hidayat, R., & Susanti, 2020](#)) :
 - This study found that 60% of respondents had good knowledge about generic drugs, but 40% still doubted the quality and efficacy of these drugs.
 - These results indicate the need to increase public awareness and understanding of generic drugs through more intensive education programs.
2. Study in Kota Bandung ([Susanto, A., & Nurhidayah, 2022](#)):
 - This research showed that even though residents in large cities are generally more exposed to information about generic drugs, 30% of them still hold negative perceptions regarding the safety and quality of generic drugs.
 - Media education and health campaigns have proven effective in raising awareness, but gaps still need to be addressed, especially among lower socioeconomic classes.
3. General Health Satisfaction Survey ([Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia., 2021](#)):
 - This report revealed that while the use of generic drugs has increased, there are still concerns among users about the efficacy and side effects of generic drugs.
 - The study also noted that knowledge levels are lower in rural and remote areas than in urban areas.

The Need for Research in Gorontalo

Based on the findings from the above studies, it can be concluded that although progress has been made in increasing public awareness of generic drugs, significant ignorance and suspicion still exist, especially in rural and peripheral areas such as Desa Tupa, Kecamatan Bulango Utara, Kabupaten Bone Bolango, Provinsi Gorontalo. This area requires special attention for several reasons: ([Nadifah, S., Soelandjari, W., 2019](#))

1. Limited Access to Information :
 - Rural areas like Desa Tupa often have limited access to accurate and up-to-date health information. This can lead to low levels of public knowledge of generic drugs.
2. Negative Perceptions of Generic Drugs :
 - Despite being more affordable, negative perceptions about the quality and efficacy of generic drugs are still common. Research in this area can help determine the extent to which these perceptions affect the use of generic drugs.
3. The importance of Enhanced Education :
 - Given the importance of generic drugs in a sustainable healthcare system, research conducted in Desa Tupa can provide useful empirical data for designing more effective

and targeted health education programs ([Food and Drug Monitoring Agency \(BPOM\), 2019](#)).

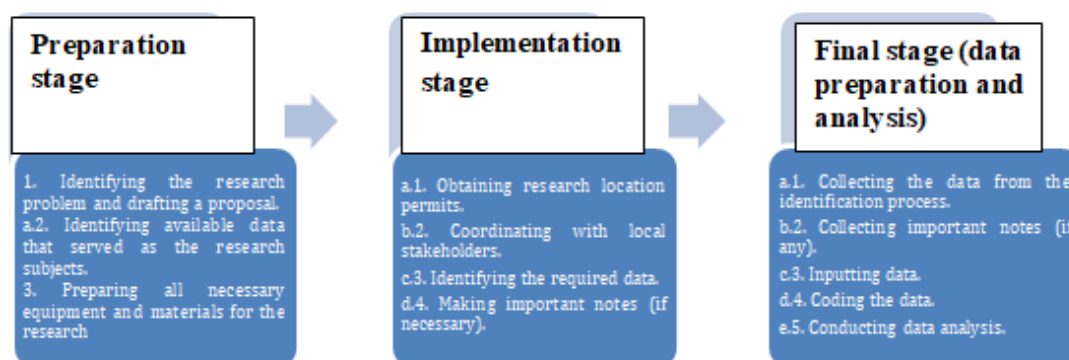
RESEARCH METHODS

This descriptive research was conducted using a data collection method involving questionnaires administered to 30 respondents in October 2022. Univariate analysis was performed to construct a frequency distribution.

Equipment and Materials

The research instrument consisted of a questionnaire adapted from previous research.

Research Procedure



Data Analysis

Data analysis was conducted using univariate analysis for each variable under investigation.

Bland drugs are pharmaceutical medicines that are proportionate to brand name drugs in terms of dose, security, quality, course of organization, quality, and planning utilization. They play a basic part within the healthcare framework by providing cost-effective choices to branded medicines, making strides open and reasonable for a more extensive populace ([Alindani Mei Sela, 2020](#)), and understanding the information level around bland drugs among different communities is essential for recognizing holes in awareness and misguided judgments that will ruin their acknowledgment and utilization. This information is particularly pivotal in districts with restricted healthcare assets, where the use of non-exclusive drugs can essentially upgrade the results. ([Alim, 2018](#)). Surveying and improving the information level around bland drugs can lead to better healthcare hones, educated decision-making, and, eventually, more viable and evenhanded healthcare conveyance.

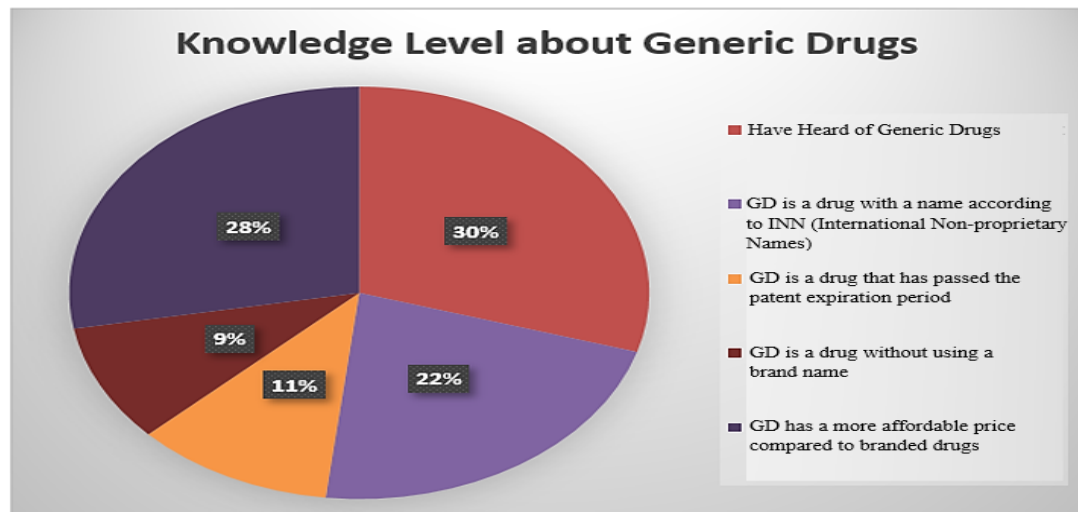


Figure 1. Knowledge level about Generic Drugs

Understanding community discernment of non-exclusive drugs is important for the effective use of healthcare arrangements pointed at making strides get to reasonable medicines (Qodriah, 2016). Non-specific drugs, which have the same composition, quality, and viability as brand-name drugs but are sold at lower costs, play a crucial part in open well-being frameworks, particularly in creating nations like Indonesia. Despite the government endeavors to advance their utilization, changing levels of information and varying discernments among the open can essentially affect the acknowledgment and utilization of non-exclusive drugs. Distinguishing these recognitions can offer assistance in tending to misguided judgments and making strides in instructive activities to guarantee that the community benefits completely from the accessibility of non-exclusive medicines (Septiana, 2019).

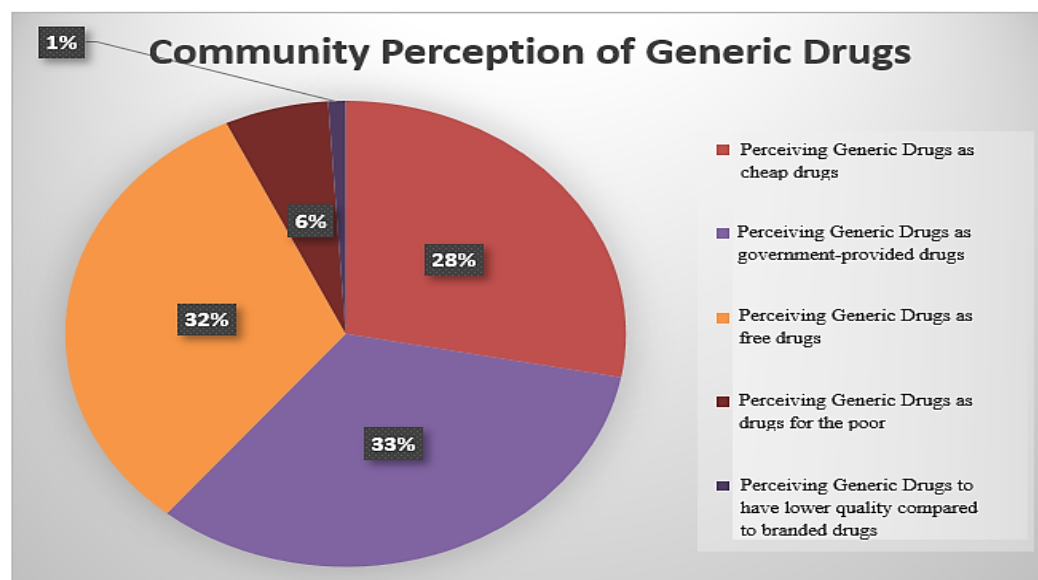


Figure 2. Community Perception of Generic Drugs

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to a survey conducted in Tupa Village, most residents lack information about the use of generic drugs.

From the 30 respondents surveyed, the following results were obtained.

1. Knowledge of Generic Drugs:
 - a. 30% of respondents had heard of generic drugs.
 - b. 22% of respondents knew that generic drugs are those named by their International Nonproprietary Name (INN).
 - c. 11% of respondents know that generic drugs are those that have surpassed their patent protection.
 - d. 9% of the respondents knew that generic drugs were those without a brand name.
 - e. 28% of respondents knew that generic drugs were cheaper than branded drugs.
2. Public perceptions of generic drugs
 - a. 28% of respondents considered generic drugs cheaper.
 - b. 33% of respondents believed that generic drugs are government programs.
 - c. 32% of respondents think of generic drugs as free medicines.
 - d. 6% of the respondents believed that generic drugs were intended for poor patients.
 - e. 1% of respondents believed that generic drugs are inferior to branded drugs.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia has issued guidelines for the implementation of generic drug programs and various regulations to encourage the use of generic drugs. ([Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021](#))

Generic Drug Logo Program (OGB)

This program aims to ensure that all segments of society have access to high-quality medicines at affordable prices. In 2020, the use of generic drugs in Indonesia was estimated to increase to approximately 50% of all the drugs used in public health facilities. However, the findings in Tupa Village indicate that despite the support provided, the public's understanding and awareness of generic drugs remain low. This suggests that government policies have not been sufficiently effective in increasing rural community knowledge. ([Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2020](#))

Comparison with Previous Research Results:

1. Study in Sukajadi Regency ([Hidayat, R., & Susanti, 2020](#)):
 - a. A total of 60% of respondents had good knowledge of generic drugs, but 40% doubted the quality and effectiveness of generic drugs.
 - b. This indicates the need to enhance public awareness and understanding through more intensive educational programs.
2. Study in Bandung City ([Susanto, A., & Nurhidayah, 2022](#)):
 - a. Although people in large cities are generally more exposed to information about generic drugs, 30% still have negative perceptions of the quality and efficacy of generic drugs.
 - b. Educational media and health campaigns have proven effective in raising awareness, but the gap, especially among the lower classes, is yet to be bridged.
3. General Health Satisfaction Survey ([Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021](#))
 - a. Despite the increase in the use of generic drugs, users still express concerns regarding their effectiveness and side effects.
 - b. Knowledge levels in rural and remote areas remained lower than those in urban areas.

Implications and Recommendations

Data from Tupa Village indicates the need to enhance education and awareness programs on generic drugs, particularly in rural areas. Therefore, government efforts should focus on: (Siahaan, 2021)

1. Increasing Access to Information:
 - a. Provide accurate and timely information through various media such as health campaigns, pamphlets, and social media.
 - b. Conduct training for community health workers to deliver direct education to the public.
2. Addressing Negative Perceptions:
 - a. Disseminate information about the quality and efficacy of generic drugs through trusted reviews and scientific evidence.
3. Involve community leaders and local figures in educational campaigns to build public trust.
4. Sustainable Education:
 - a. Designing sustainable and targeted educational programs, especially in rural and remote areas.
 - b. Use interactive and participatory educational methods to improve public understanding.

These steps are expected to enhance the knowledge and positive perceptions of the community in Tupa Village and similar areas regarding generic drugs, ultimately increasing their usage of generic drugs.

CONCLUSION

Based on the interviews conducted with the residents of Tupa Village, it can be concluded that the community still has limited knowledge regarding generic drugs.

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