

## Lack of Public Knowledge About the Dangers of Dengue Fever in RT 19, Sawah Lebar Baru Subdistrict, Bengkulu City

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**Abstract.** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is an infectious disease caused by the dengue virus and transmitted through the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Although prevention efforts have been intensified, public awareness and understanding of DHF remain low, especially in densely populated areas such as Neighborhood Unit (RT) 19 in Sawah Lebar Baru Village, Bengkulu City. This study aims to determine the level of public understanding of DHF and the factors influencing it. The research method used was quantitative descriptive with a survey approach. Data collection was conducted through questionnaires distributed to 20 respondents. The results showed that the majority of the community had low knowledge about the causes, symptoms, transmission methods, and prevention of DHF. Lack of socialization, low education levels, and insufficient attention to environmental cleanliness were the main contributing factors. The conclusion of this study is the need to enhance public education through regular counseling programs conducted by health workers and Posyandu cadres.

**Keywords:** *Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, Public Knowledge, Prevention, RT 19, Sawah Lebar Baru.*

### INTRODUCTION

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is an endemic disease that remains a public health problem in Indonesia. Data from the Bengkulu City Health Office shows an increase in DHF cases in 2024, particularly in densely populated areas such as Sawah Lebar Baru Village. DHF transmission is closely linked to community behavior and understanding of the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness and implementing mosquito breeding sites (PSN). Neighborhood Association (RT) 19 is an area with a dense environment and minimal prevention efforts, which is suspected to be a factor in the high risk of DHF transmission.

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral disease that has become one of the most pressing public health concerns in tropical and subtropical regions, particularly in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. The disease is transmitted primarily by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito,

which thrives in densely populated urban areas with poor sanitation and stagnant water sources. According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health, cases of dengue fever remain high, and outbreaks often occur during the rainy season, when mosquito breeding is at its peak.

Despite various efforts by the government and health institutions to control the spread of dengue fever, community participation remains a crucial factor in the success of prevention programs. Public knowledge plays an essential role in determining people's awareness and behavior toward eliminating mosquito breeding sites, recognizing early symptoms, and seeking prompt medical care. However, many communities in Indonesia still have limited understanding of dengue fever, which significantly hampers prevention efforts.

Bengkulu City is among the regions in Indonesia where dengue fever continues to pose a serious challenge. The geographical and climatic conditions of the area support mosquito breeding, and population density further increases the risk of transmission. Within the city, Sawah Lebar Baru Subdistrict, specifically RT 19, has been identified as an area that frequently experiences dengue fever cases. Reports from local health services indicate that limited community awareness has contributed to recurring outbreaks in the area.

In RT 19, many residents are not fully aware of the dangers of dengue fever and tend to neglect preventive measures such as covering water storage containers, cleaning drainage systems, or participating in communal cleaning activities. This lack of awareness not only increases the risk of individual infection but also creates a wider public health threat within the community. Public knowledge about the transmission, symptoms, and dangers of dengue fever is therefore a key determinant in the effectiveness of prevention strategies.

The lack of sufficient knowledge also affects the way people respond when symptoms appear. In many cases, residents delay seeking medical care because they are unable to recognize the early signs of dengue fever, such as sudden fever, severe headache, and muscle pain. Such delays often result in more severe health conditions and increase the risk of complications, including death.

Given these challenges, it is necessary to analyze the level of public knowledge about dengue fever in RT 19, Sawah Lebar Baru Subdistrict. Understanding the gaps in awareness will help stakeholders, including health agencies, community leaders, and local governments, to design and implement more effective health education and intervention programs.

This study is expected to highlight the relationship between lack of public knowledge and the persistence of dengue fever cases in the area. By identifying the specific aspects of knowledge that are lacking, such as transmission methods, prevention techniques, or symptom recognition, more targeted educational strategies can be developed. Furthermore, the findings can contribute to broader efforts in Bengkulu City to reduce dengue fever cases and improve community participation in disease prevention programs.

Therefore, the research entitled "Lack of Public Knowledge About the Dangers of Dengue Fever in RT 19, Sawah Lebar Baru Subdistrict, Bengkulu City" aims to investigate the extent of public understanding regarding dengue fever, analyze the contributing factors to low awareness, and propose recommendations to strengthen community-based prevention efforts.

## RESEARCH METHODS

- Research Type: Quantitative Descriptive
- Research Location: Neighborhood Association (RT) 19, Sawah Lebar Baru Subdistrict, Bengkulu City
- Number of Respondents: 20 heads of families
- Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling
- Instrument: Closed-ended questionnaire
- Data Analysis: Frequency distribution and percentage

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1** From the results of a survey of 20 respondents, it was found that:

Aspects of Understanding	Good (%)	Enough (%)	Not enough (%)
Knowledge about dengue fever symptoms	20%	30%	50%
Knowledge about dengue fever symptoms	26%	34%	40%
Knowledge about PSN	22%	36%	42%

### Factors causing low understanding:

- Lack of involvement in environmental activities
- Lack of concern for the cleanliness of water reservoirs

The research results show that the majority of residents in RT 19 have a limited understanding of dengue fever. This increases the risk of disease spread, especially during the rainy season. Furthermore, the lack of community initiative to conduct routine dengue fever screenings exacerbates this situation.

## CONCLUSION

The lack of understanding of dengue fever in RT 19 poses a significant risk of increasing cases of this disease. Lack of environmental awareness is a major contributing factor.

## LITERATURE

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