



EXPLORING ENGLISH TO SUPPORT THE SKILLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Dafa Pabertiyani¹, Jayanti Dwi Lestari², Merin Dwi Arlino³,
Dafa Arifiansyah⁴, Suciana Wijirahayu⁵

¹Program Studi Kesehatan Masyarakat, Fakultas Ilmu – Ilmu Kesehatan

²Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Sekolah Pascasarjana

Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA Jakarta

¹dafapabertiyani@gmail.com ²dwilestarijayanti139@gmail.com

³merindwi.arlino@gmail.com ⁴dafaarif1210@gmail.com

⁵sucianawijirahayu@uhamka.ac.id

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Abstract

Public Health is a field of science that studies improving the quality of public health and prevention related to humans, the environment, and disease. Public Health Sciences takes actions aimed at promoting (improvement) and preventive (prevention) of sick people from getting sick. Learning English is an asset for health workers, especially public health workers. Communicating in English is an opportunity to develop and improve skills to answer various challenges in their professional world. This study aims to improve English language skills for prospective public health workers. This study uses a literature review method using validated sources. English in public health includes the skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The sub-skills of pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary mastery are also beneficial. We expect that students as potential public health workers have high English mastery. It is good if Public health workers can apply skills in communicating well in providing services to patients who are foreign nationals or guests from world health institutions.

Keywords: English mastery, public health

Introduction

English skills in the era of globalization are a must. It can be an additional value. Learning English has started to be given at Elementary School, Junior High School, Senior High School to College level. Likewise, students who take the Health study program are non-English students. Paramedics such as doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health workers must master English as an international language. It is because there are many medical devices in English, how to operate them, and meeting various patients who speak English. That is one proof of the importance of mastering English. English courses are one of the

compulsory subjects. According to Sinaga (2010), the ability to speak English can support success in a career in the world of work. Teachers awareness in providing authentic material as well as assessment are essential in increasing the quality of the learner communication skills in English (Wijirahayu & Rokhmani, 2021).

In the learning process in higher education, public health students must have good reading interests and habits. That will help them in the process of actualizing their insights. Considering the development of health sciences is published globally in English. Health workers should also master technology in the health sector and take part in the world of international health (Jumaroh, 2021).

Another study on reading habits reported by Soliman and Neel (2009) at the Medical College of King Saud University described the reading habits of students who are also prospective health workers. The study shows that students' reading habits are not very good, especially since the reading materials of these students are generally only bound to textbooks used in the learning process in universities. Values in reading texts could be interesting topic for the millennia to be part of the discussion in higher education (Wijirahayu & Muliya, 2022)

According to Dornyei in Sukmawati's research (2020), there are several factors influencing the learning process in foreign languages talents, interests, motivation, learning styles, personality, learning strategies, beliefs of the learner, and so on. Teachers beliefs and strategies in using authentic material and creativity suitable to the situation especially in virtual learning could sthreghten the students confident in expressing ideas in English (Wijirahayu, 2022). This study was in line with Lee's (2016) opinion that English learning materials following the learner's field of study will be beneficial to prepare them to face job competition.

According to the National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BNP2TKI), many countries in the Middle East, Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, and America require workers from Indonesia. However, these nurses/medical personnel in Indonesia have to compete with a medical professionals from overseas who are fluent in English. Since English is a global communication language, it is also essential for public health workers.

Method

The design of this research is Literature Review. A literature review examines critically reviews knowledge, ideas, or findings contained academically and formulates theoretical and methodological contributions to particular topics. The nature of this research is descriptive analysis, namely regular decomposition of the data obtained, then understanding and explanation are given so that it is readable.

The articles or journals that meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria are for further analysis. This Literature Review uses literature published in 2015-2022, accessible in full text in PDF and scholarly formats (peer-reviewed journals). The criteria for the journals reviewed are research journal articles in Indonesian and English on the subject of public health.

Findings and Discussion

A person's ability to communicate using a foreign language, especially English global competition, has become a necessity as an international language.

It is one of the few life skills that someone must master if they want to develop and have competitiveness in global business. English is no longer only a compulsory subject or subject in schools but also an asset for someone to face competition. The ability to communicate in English for medical personnel such as doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, and public health is demanding to compete in the era of globalization. The ability of a public health worker to communicate using English will also increase added value and open up opportunities for careers in workplaces that are considered more prestigious, even opening career opportunities abroad.

Face the global business is the goal of reading several articles or journals in English. Competent public health personnel must understand health terms in English to produce community health workers in terms of theory and practice. Public health workers can apply skills in communicating well in providing services to patients who are foreign nationals or guests from world health institutions. There are several things that public health workers can do to improve their English skills. Habit of reading could reduce the anxiety in English writing (Wijirahayu & Kamilah, 2021).

(English language training for public health workers)

English in the world of public health is used to communicate with patients, the community, and fellow professionals in the medical environment. The purpose of this English training is to help public health workers in speaking English to communicate in their work as well as possible and develop career opportunities, such as public health workers who will work abroad. The material from this training includes self-introduction, asking questions at the time of patient admission, giving directions in hospital facilities, explaining health education, explaining disease prevention, convincing patients, persuading and calming patients, medical terminology, etc.

The language functions studied include asking for information, explaining goals, instructing patients, calming, giving warnings, and advising. This training carries the international curriculum from Cambridge. This curriculum is in international schools in Indonesia. Meanwhile, several benefits are promising.

1. The ability to communicate in English in a medical environment.
2. Increasing vocabulary related to the medical world, especially those that are often used by other health workers.
3. Developing a confident attitude in communicating using English.

(Intensive English Program (IEP))

Eva et al. (2019) stated the Intensive English Program (IEP) had a significant impact. The average vocabulary ability of students also increased after the implementation of the Intensive English program. The increase is in the average value of vocabulary ability from 1.4881 to 2.2500 or 0.7619. A positive impact of the habituation in the Intensive English Program (IEP). Activities such as drilling and conversation in large portions can improve students' vocabulary mastery.

In addition, the Intensive English Program (IEP) applies to learning that involves four skills, speaking, listening, grammar and vocabulary. The material is suited to the needs of students.

(English for Specific Purposes (ESP))

Syukur et al. (2019) exposed the implementation of English for Specific Purpose (ESP). It explained that most students considered that they lacked speaking. Speaking is a productive skill that is sometimes considered a skill that can show the extent of a person's level of English proficiency.

Speaking, Writing, Reading, and Listening skills are equal language skills. These four skills are Integrated Skills in learning English. Therefore, ESP teachers must determine the focus of teaching on skills that required more in-depth handling and discussion in class.

Determination of learning objectives based on needs analysis is to determine the needs of learners. It is to provide them with English language materials that can accommodate these goals. Teachers' creativity in developing the material is important to support the learners achievement (Wijirahayu, Priyatmoho & Hadiyanti, 2019). The material used must be for the students to graduate and work. It is suitable for their working life (Chovancova,2014). Ellis in Chovancova (2014) added that the development of teaching materials must consider authentic materials that reflect their profession. So ESP doesn't just teach English without context in it.

Conclusion

Public Health is a field of science that studies improving the quality of public health and prevention related to humans, the environment, and disease. Public Health Sciences takes actions aimed at promotion (improvement) and preventive (prevention) of sick people from getting sick. The mastery of English is beneficial for public health workers. It is for them to communicate well in providing services to patients who are foreign nationals or guests from world health institutions.

A person's ability to communicate in English in this era of global competition has become a necessity for all. English as an international language is one of the few life skills that everyone must master if they want to develop and have competitiveness in global business. To improve skills for prospective public health workers for a long time, such as participating in English language training, participating in the Intensive English Program (IEP), and implementing English for Specific Purpose (ESP) for health colleges, especially for public health.

Vocabulary learning is related to speaking activities, yet the learners' needs for English courses are vary. The needs analysis is not only the initial process of ESP development but also an evaluation of the ongoing process..

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