



Health Impact Related to the Selection of Vasectomy as Male Contraceptive Method in Makassar City

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Abstract

Vasectomy method is still less desirable because many causes, among others; religion, health, patriarchal culture, gender, costs, and social impacts that can occur. This study aimed to review the health impact related to the selection of vasectomy as a male contraceptive method. It was a qualitative research with descriptive analysis approach which is carried out in three district (Mamajang, Tamalate dan Tamalanrea) in Makassar City. There were fifteen informants interviewed in this research who have become vasectomy acceptors for at least 1 (one) year. Data collection were carried through in-depth interview, observation, and documentation. The results shows that informants did not experience any health problems after becoming acceptor. Informants did not experience sexual dysfunction, there are even some informants who claims that their vitality is increasing after performing vasectomy procedure. Vasectomy did not have any negative health impact to those who performs the procedure. On the contrary, vasectomy has a positive health impact such as vitality increasing and can prevent the occurrence of certain disease. This at once dismissed the negative issues that spread among society.

Keywords: Vasectomy; Health; Male acceptor.

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1. Introduction

The vasectomy method is one of several options of contraceptives use for men in order to suppress the rate of population growth. Data from State Ministry for Population/ National Family Planning Coordinating Board in 2010 shows the male participation in vasectomy in Indonesia is still under 5% of all existing contraceptive methods compared to other Asian countries such as Pakistan, (5.2%), Bangladesh (13.9%) & Malaysia (16.8%) , this makes Indonesia occupies the lowest number of vasectomy [1].

For many, vasectomy method is still less desirable. It is triggered by many causes, among others; religion, health, patriarchal culture, gender, costs, and social impacts that can occur. Medically, vasectomy is feared to interfere with other organs and cause problems for male sexuality or cause impotence. While the culture appears the assumption that vasectomy can cause the loss of male virility so that the wives forbade their husbands to do vasectomy because they believe their husbands will lose the ability both sexually and in terms of provides a living for their family [2,3].

These concerns continue to pose controversy in the society about vasectomy in various aspects, such as religion, health, culture, cost, gender inequality and social aspects. Many factors can cause the low male participation in the use of contraception, which is; from the male's (client's) factors such as knowledge, attitudes, practices and needs; environmental factors such as social, cultural, community and family/wife, lack of information and accessibility to male's contraceptive services and also limited variation of male contraception. Moreover the negative perception that vasectomy is same as emasculated and can cause impotence so that men are reluctant to performs a vasectomy [4,5]. This study aims to review the health impact related to the selection of vasectomy as a male contraceptive method.

2. Material and Methods

This was a qualitative research with descriptive analysis approach which is carried out in Makassar City. There were fifteen informants interviewed in this research who have become vasectomy acceptors for at least 1 (one) year. Supporting information is obtained from the wives, close relatives and the environmental neighbors of the acceptor. Data collection were carried through in-depth interview, observation, and documentation. All information then analyze through content analysis and presented in narrative form.

3. Results

Vasectomy is one of male contraceptive method as an attempt to limit birth rates. When compared with other contraceptive methods, vasectomy method is still less desirable. This is triggered by many factors, which one of them is from health aspect. Health aspect referred in this research is health impact related to male's decision in performing vasectomy. Whether vasectomy can cause positive or negative impact to their reproductive organs and reproductive health.

Based on findings in this study shows that vasectomy does not have a negative impact on acceptor's reproductive health. On the contrary, it has a positive impact to the acceptor as said by informant Mr.IN during

interview. According to Mr.IN expression, he did not feel the negative symptoms or complications after performing vasectomy. This statement at once dismissed the negative issue that by performing vasectomy, the acceptor will experience vitality disturbance like impotence. This can be seen in Mr.IN expression:

“I don’t think so... I disagree, because I have been acceptor for three years and I feel great. I never experience any disturbance related to my daily activity and sexual performance. in my opinion, impotence can occur due to our own negative thoughts”

In fact, according to Mr.IN his intimate relationship with his spouse is much better since he no longer need to worry about pregnancy. Although he has no intention and reason related to health by the time he decide to performs vesectomy, but now he feels that his performance and vitality is increase. Plus, now he knows that vasectomy can prevent the occurrence of certain disease.

Similar expression also stated by Mr.MN and Mr. AY In terms of health, both of these informants did not feel any complaints that occurs since they performs vasectomy. They dismissed the issue of impaired vitality such as impotence after performs vasectomy, because they did not feel any unusual thing and side effect after the surgery. They both also did not feel any disturbance due to their intimate relationship with each spouse, they still can perform their duties as husband as usually just like before they decides to become vasectomy acceptor.

Those statement is also supported by the expression of other informants, Mr. BA. Until now, Mr.BA did not feel any complaint that occur to his health related to vasectomy. Mr.BA never felt the impact of negative issues as he often hears that has been spread in the society. Post procedure complications are not experienced by Mr.BA because he obeys the advice from the doctor by resting about a week after the procedure so that the recovery process goes well. This can be seen from the following statement:

“I don’t have any complains..... the important thing is we have to rest about a week after the surgery for recovery process”

The negative issue that vasectomy can lead to impotence or sterility is dismissed by Mr. BA. On the contrary, He feels that his vitality is improv over time and his mind was no longer burdened with worries that his wife can be pregnant again. There is no disruption to health condition related to vasectomy until now vasectomy is safe both for him and his wife.

Similar with the expression from Mr.AJ, where he did not feel any difference with his body and his health performance before and after performing vasectomy. There is no difference in his intimate relation with his wife. Although Mr.AJ did not know much about health aspect related to vasectomy, and also that vasectomy can help prevent the occurrence of certain disease.

This also supported by the expression of Mr.DL after performing vasectomy procedure. Based on his explanation, he did not feel any negative side effect after the procedure. This can be seen from the following statement :

"Nothing... not at all... I don't feel any side effect... I've heard that sometimes there is a difference before and after the procedure... but I don't feel any complaints. I don't know about other people hahaha"

Based on the expression from Mr.DL it can be conclude that he did not feel any health problems or complications related to his decision to perform vasectomy. Although he already hear that vasectomy can resulting some health problems, but he experience the opposite. Mr.DL admitted that for this last five years he don't feel any difference after perform vasectomy. The only difference he experience is due to his intimate relationship with his wife. He feels that his vitality has been increased since then. This at once dismissed the assumption or issue that vasectomy can cause impotence to those who performs this procedure as can be seen from the following statement :

"I feel that my vitality is increased..... I know that there are some people think that we become impotent, on the contrary I feel more virile.. the only thing is that my wife can't be pregnant again"

4. Discussion

The main purpose of Family Planning Programme is pregnancy planning, so pregnancy only occurs at the desired time. The distance between pregnancy is extended, so that the next pregnancy can be prevented when the number of children is in accordance with the expected, to build the health of all family members as best as possible to the Norms of the Happy and Prosperous Small Family [6-9]h (Waloejono, 2000).

The importance of men involved in family planning programme and reproductive health is based on the fact that :

- 1) Men and women are sexual and reproductive partners, so it is reasonable that men and women share responsibilities and roles in a balanced way to achieve sexual life satisfaction and various burdens to prevent illness and reproductive health complications.
- 2) Men are socially and economically responsible including for their children, so that men's involvement on their reproductive decisions will form a stronger bond between them and their children.
- 3) Men are obviously involved in fertility and also plays an important role in deciding which contraceptive method they will use for themselves and their wife, and supporting their spouse with their reproductive lives such as childbirth.

In health aspect, what is meant by attitudes toward health is people's opinion or judgment on all matters related to health care, which includes at least four variables, such as:

- 1) Attitudes toward infectious and non-infectious diseases (types of diseases and their signs or symptoms, causes, way of transmission, prevention effort and temporarily coping strategy).
- 2) Attitudes towards the factors that related and/or affect the health, among others: food nutrition, water supply, waste water disposal, human waste disposal, garbage disposal, healthy housing, air pollution, etc.
- 3) Attitudes toward professional and traditional health care facility.

- 4) Attitude in avoiding accidents, both domestic accidents and traffic accidents, and also accidents in public places [10].

5. Conclusion

Vasectomy did not have any negative health impact to those who performs the procedure. On the contrary, vasectomy has a positive health impact such as vitality increasing and can prevent the occurrence of certain disease. This at once dismissed the negative issues that spread among society.

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Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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