The Dynamic of the Interaction between the Modern Medical System and the Traditional Medical System: Finding a Way for Establishing a Harmonious Collaboration of the Two Systems for the Social Justice for the People

Coordinators: Meutia F. Hatta, Rhino Ariefiansyah & Dea Rifia Bella
(Universitas Indonesia)

The rich traditional medical system of the Indonesian multicultural societies has been known for long since the ancient cultures. Meanwhile, the modern medical system was mostly introduced to Indonesia during the Dutch colonial period. The interaction of traditional and modern medical system in Indonesia is shown through the hierarchy of resorts in choosing curative practices based on people’s cultural consideration in their living environments. Contemporarily, however, evidence of problems in achieving harmonious collaboration programs between the two medical system still occurs, such as false definition on medical concepts which previously non-existent, causing obstacles in implementing some essential health programs like vaccination. Some caused unsuccessful results in collaborating health care programs between both systems, in prevention, cure or rehabilitation aspects. What efforts have been made to eliminate false conception and practices derived from the misinterpretation on new ideas of outside cultural influences, due to the improper acceptance of rapid development of science, technology and digital communication. Equal information on new development approaches and methods of prevention, curing and rehabilitation between physical and mental health problems is also urgently needed, in response to the contemporary socio-cultural, political, economic activities and changes which increase situations full of violence, conflicts, injustice, and suppression towards the poor and powerless societies. There are also questions on whether the new health policies and regulations prove to cause more dissatisfaction for some people, rather than giving peaceful life, assurance and justice? We hope to have papers from scholars of different disciplines: anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, medical doctors, psychiatrists, experts in social welfare and public administration, to provide their theories and opinions, for the improvement of the national health policies and implementation programs.

Dukuns and Doctors - Finding Ways of Working Together
David Mitchell
Monash University

The new Governor of Bali Wayan Koster has announced he will set up kiosks in public hospitals to make traditional healing available there. This will not be easy since in Bali there is great diversity in the healers available where the word balian is used instead of the Indonesian dukun to identify their traditional healers. Balinese healers range from balian usada who study traditional palm-leaf texts to balian taksu who go into trance to access supernatural influences, to balian manak who assist women with birth, balian uwud who massage and manipulate for muscle and joint problems, and balian tulang who deal with fractures and dislocations - to name just a few of many categories.

One source of difficulty for Governor Koster will be managing the competing interests of the doctors and the dukuns. The formal health sector supported by the government also covers a