

**Darmawan J, Muirden KD, Wigley RD, Valkenburg HA. Arthritis community education by leather puppet (wayang kulit) shadow play in rural Indonesia (Java). Rheumatol Int. 1992;12(3):97-101.**

As part of the WHO/International League Against Rheumatism (ILAR) sponsored community organized programme for the control of rheumatic disease (COPCORD), an arthritis community education programme (ACE) was undertaken utilizing the traditional form of entertainment in a rural area in Central Java-the wayang. The point prevalence rate of musculoskeletal complaints was estimated in 4683 men & women aged 15 years and over by house-to-house interviews. From 1105 respondents recording recent musculoskeletal pain, 844 were randomly selected and half the latter attended a puppet shadow play (wayang) incorporating the ACE. The other half, matched for age, sex and educational level who did not see the play, served as controls. A questionnaire containing biphasic choices of correct or incorrect ways of performing activities of daily living (ADL) to minimize musculoskeletal problems was administered to the whole group before, 1 month and 6 months after the wayang. Increased knowledge of correct ways of performing ADL (correct ADL) in the intervention group compared with the control group at 1 and 6 months after wayang was significant (P less than 0.05). Comprehension of correct ADL following the wayang could be demonstrated even in subjects who were illiterate and those who had attended primary school only. Retention of knowledge at the 6 month assessment declined more markedly in the illiterate group. ACE by wayang was shown to be feasible and effective in transferring knowledge on ADL to people with musculoskeletal problems in the sample population in Java. This effect could be shown even in the poorly educated section of the community.