EFFECT OF FRESH WATER SHELL (*BATISSA VIOLACEA CELEBENSIS*) ON IRON LEVEL IN THE GROUND WATER, KENDARI, SOUTH EAST SULAWESI

Bromo Kusumo, Muh. Abd. Gafur Tirtayasa, Neni Hendrawati

Masters Program in Public Health, School of Health Sciences Mandala Waluya, Kendari

ABSTRACT

**Background:** Iron in rural ground water supplies is a common problem: its concentration level ranges from 0 to 50 mg/L, while WHO recommended level is <0.3 mg/L. The iron occurs naturally in the aquifer but levels in groundwater can be increased by dissolution of ferrous borehole and handpump components. Iron-bearing groundwater is often noticeably orange in colour, causing discoloration of laundry, and has an unpleasant taste, which is apparent in drinking and food preparation. There are only a few studies of fresh water shell (*batissa violacea celebensis*) as an alternative to reduce the iron content in groundwater has not been done much. This study aimed to test the effectiveness of fresh water shell (*batissa violacea celebensis*) in decreasing iron level in the ground water.

**Subjects and Method:** This was a quasi-experiment study before and after with no control design conducted at Wowawanggu village, Wua-wua sub-district, Kendari, South Sulawesi. A total sample of 3 boreholes was selected for this study by purposive sampling. The dependent variable was iron level in the ground water. The independent variable was fresh water shell (*batissa violacea celebensis*). Differences in mean between groups were tested by One Way ANOVA and post hoc test.

**Result:** Differences in mean between groups were statistically significant with iron level in the ground water in the fresh water shell (*batissa violacea celebensis*) groups lower than the negative control group.

**Conclusion:** Fresh water shell (*batissa violacea celebensis*) is effective to decrease iron level in the ground water.

**Keywords:** iron level, ground water, fresh water shell, *batissa violacea celebensis*

**Correspondence:**
Bromo Kusumo. Masters Program in Public Health, Faculty of Health Science Mandala Waluya, Jl. A.H. Nasution No. G 37, Kendari, South East Sulawesi. Email: bromo.ka@gmail.com.
Mobile: 082221717148.