

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND FAMILY SUPPORT WITH
POSTPARTUM MOTHER VISITS IN THE WORKING AREA PUSKESMAS TANJUNG
LEIDONG SUB-DISTRICT KUALUH LEIDONG DISTRICT LABUHAN BATU UTARA
PROVINCE, NORTH SUMATRA NORTH YEAR 2023**

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ABSTRACT

Maternal and child health is one of the priorities in Indonesia's health development. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) remains a challenge, and one of the efforts to reduce it is by improving postpartum maternal health services. This study aims to analyze the relationship between maternal knowledge and family support with postpartum visits in the working area of Tanjung Leidong Health Center, Labuhan Batu Utara Regency, North Sumatra. This study used a correlational research design with a quantitative approach. The research sample consisted of 40 postpartum mothers selected through consecutive sampling techniques. Data were collected using a questionnaire and analyzed using the Spearman's Rho test. The results showed a significant relationship between maternal knowledge and postpartum visits ($p\text{-value} = 0.02 < 0.05$), where mothers with better knowledge were more likely to complete postpartum visits. These findings highlight the importance of education and family support in increasing postpartum visit coverage to reduce MMR.

Keywords: Knowledge, Family Support, Postpartum Visits.

INTRODUCTION

Maternal and child health is a national health development priority, as reflected in efforts to reduce the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). Maternal deaths commonly occur during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum due to complications that can be prevented with proper healthcare services. Data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health in 2020 indicate that the national postpartum visit coverage (KF3) was 88.3%, yet North Sumatra remained below this standard at 76.5%. Labuhan Batu Utara Regency recorded a coverage rate of 80.02%, still failing to meet the 84% target set by the North Sumatra Provincial Health Office's Strategic Plan in 2019.

One of the factors influencing postpartum visits is the mother's knowledge about its benefits and family support, particularly from the husband. A preliminary survey revealed that many postpartum mothers believe that check-ups are only necessary during the first week after childbirth. Additionally, husbands often assume that once their wives appear physically recovered, further medical check-ups are unnecessary. Therefore, this study aims to examine the relationship between maternal knowledge and family support with postpartum visits in the working area of the Tanjung Leidong Health Center.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study utilized a correlational research design with a quantitative approach to examine the relationship between maternal knowledge and postpartum visits in the working area of the Tanjung Leidong Health Center. The study was conducted from March to June 2023. The population consisted of all postpartum mothers in the health center's working area, totaling 40 individuals. A consecutive sampling technique was

applied, selecting mothers who met the inclusion criteria, namely those who could communicate well and had undergone normal delivery.

Data collection was carried out using a structured questionnaire that assessed maternal knowledge regarding postpartum visits and the frequency of visits they had undertaken. The collected data were processed through several stages: editing, to ensure completeness; coding, to facilitate analysis; data entry, to input responses into a statistical software program; and cleaning, to check for errors. Data analysis involved univariate analysis, which presented frequency distributions of each variable, and bivariate analysis, conducted using the Spearman’s Rho test to determine the relationship between maternal knowledge and postpartum visits, with a significance level of 5% ($p < 0.05$).

RESULTS

1. Univariate Analysis

Univariate analysis is an analysis conducted to obtain a description of each variable, the frequency distribution of various variables studied, both dependent and independent variables, which is then presented in the form of frequency distribution.

Table 4.1 Frequency distribution of respondents based on knowledge and postpartum visits

Characteristic		F	%
Science	Good	14	35,0
	Less	26	65,0
	Total	40	100
Postpartum visit	Complete	18	45,0
	Not Complete	22	55,0
	Total	40	100,0

Table 4.1 above shows that the majority of respondents have poor knowledge, totaling 26 people (65%), and postpartum visits are incomplete for more than 50%, namely 22 people (55%).

2. Bivariate Analysis

Bivariate analysis is an advanced analysis from univariate analysis. Bivariate analysis aims to determine whether there is a relationship between independent variables and dependent variables.

Table 4.2 Relationship between maternal knowledge and postpartum visits.

Variables		Completeness of postnatal visits		Total	%	P-value
		Complete	Not Complete			
Mum's knowledge	Good	11	3	14	35,0	0,02
	Less	7	19	26	100	

Total	18	22	40	100,0
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Table 4.2 above shows that knowledge has a significant relationship with postnatal visits with a p-value of $0.02 < 0.05$, where the better the knowledge, the more complete the postnatal visits.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that maternal knowledge has a significant relationship with postpartum visits, as evidenced by a p-value of 0.02 (< 0.05). This means that mothers with better knowledge about the importance of postpartum check-ups were more likely to complete their recommended visits. The study also found that 65% of respondents had low knowledge levels, and 55% of postpartum mothers did not complete the recommended visits, suggesting a strong link between knowledge and health-seeking behavior.

These results align with the study by Setiawati (2016), which also found that mothers with sufficient knowledge were more likely to comply with postpartum visit recommendations. On the other hand, mothers with low knowledge levels showed a tendency to neglect postpartum check-ups. The role of family support, particularly from husbands, also emerged as a crucial factor. Husbands who understand the importance of postpartum care can encourage and facilitate their wives' visits to healthcare facilities, providing both emotional and logistical support.

Given these findings, healthcare professionals should prioritize maternal education through communication, information, and education (CIE) programs to improve knowledge and awareness about the importance of postpartum check-ups. Additionally, community-based interventions should be implemented to enhance family involvement, ensuring that postpartum mothers receive adequate support to complete their follow-up visits.

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