

## Research Article

# Minangkabau matrilineal society perception of pregnant women's health services

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## ABSTRACT

**Background;** The interpretation of the information received by each member of the community regarding all aspects related to pregnant women is one of the factors in the social perspective of maternal health services. The low level of public perception is one of the inhibiting factors for pregnant women to make antenatal care visits. This study aims to analyze the perceptions of each community member about ANC services. **Method:** This type of qualitative research with the PAR approach. Informants were selected through purposive sampling technique in two selected nagari in West Sumatra. Data collection was carried out by means of observation, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Data were analyzed by means of content analysis. **Results:** In general, the perception of the Minangkabau matrilineal community about the problem of pregnant women is still low, followed by the perception of husbands, community leaders and cadres that are not in accordance with the interpretation of local health workers so that antenatal visits have not yet reached the target. **Conclusion:** Minangkabau matrilineal society needs a new perception portrait about maternal health services, inappropriate perceptions must be changed through innovative information services provided by health workers so as to increase the number of antenatal visits required by mothers during pregnancy. **Keywords:** Matrilineal, pregnant women, public perception.

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## INTRODUCTION

Based on data, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is still at 176 per 100,000 live births. This figure is still far from the 2030 SDGs target, because the target achievement is still less than 75%<sup>1</sup>. The indirect cause of maternal death is due to non-medical aspects in the form of the mother's social situation and condition in the community<sup>2</sup>. Information and experiences received by the community affect the perception and achievement of health services for pregnant women<sup>3</sup>. Visits of pregnant women to health service places are influenced by the beliefs and habits of the local community so that the perception of pregnant women and the community about going to health workers is carried out if there are complaints that are felt.

Good perceptions will change people's behavior so that an increase in antenatal visits can be achieved according to the target<sup>4,5</sup>. Customs and community culture also influence the degree of public health, in the world there are two kinship systems, namely patrilineal and matrilineal, in the patrilineal system the lineage is ethnicity and

place of residence based on the father, while matrilineal lineage is in the form of ethnicity and place of residence based on the mother, so that perception and the habits of the matrilineal society are influenced by the mother's family<sup>6</sup>.

Family and tribal heirlooms in the matrilineal kinship system are passed on to girls based on the maternal lineage so that women are given special rights to protect, care for and preserve the customs and habits passed down by their parents<sup>7</sup>. The very important role of women in the matrilineal system is not in line with the achievement of visits by pregnant women (K4) in this area, even K4 coverage has tended to decline over the last 3 years in Tanah Datar Regency, West Sumatra.

This article will elaborate more on people's perceptions about health services for pregnant women, especially perceptions of problems with pregnant women, perceptions of the quality of services for pregnant women, perceptions of husband and community support for pregnant women, perceptions of obstacles in referrals and perceptions of women's empowerment.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research design was a qualitative study to determine the perception of the Minangkabau ethnic matrilineal community in Indonesia on the health of pregnant women. Perceptions of the health of pregnant women include the quality of health services for pregnant women, perceptions of husband and community support for the health of pregnant women and perceptions of women's empowerment during pregnancy. *Research informants*

The informants are the original Minang ethnic group which is determined by purposive sampling technique, namely husbands, community leaders, health cadres and health workers totaling 70 people. The selection of informants was carried out in two regions in West Sumatra that had the lowest K4 coverage.

### *Research sites*

The research was conducted in Sungayang District and Pariangan District, Tanah Datar District, West Sumatra Province, Indonesia.

### *Data collection and Analysis*

Data collection was carried out by means of observation, focus group discussion techniques and in-depth interviews. Data analysis technique were analyzed using content analysis techniques followed by data triangulation.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

### *Perceptions about Pregnant Women Problems*

Physical and psychological changes due to pregnancy can cause problems that are felt by the mother, normal and pathological problems for pregnant women can be resolved by visiting health services. Based on group discussions with informants, it is known that the community does not understand the problems of pregnant women. "... The money in the village square understands the problem of other mothers with mangandung ..." (Tomapr03) (people still do not understand the problem of pregnant women). Meanwhile, pregnant women and husbands added that the problem of pregnant women is in the form of complaints that the mother feels during pregnancy "... Acok Maraso Sasak in Dado, Acok Latiah" (Sytnks 01) (often feel short of breath and tire easily) Several health worker informants provided further information that the problem of pregnant women is that many do not know about their own pregnancy or feel reluctant to go to health workers because of multiparity. "... mothers who don't know that they are pregnant, beko appeared when TM II ended) (Sy tnks 03) (mothers who do not know they are pregnant will appear in TM II) "... Pregnant women who are just ashamed of perikso pie, pai wak karumahnya

Inyo is tired of not being pregnant and Inyo hiding, she is pregnant; (Prnks tnks 02) (a pregnant woman who is ashamed to go to a pregnancy checkup, and if she visits the house, she will hide her pregnancy by saying that she is not pregnant) Cadre informants from both nagari also expressed the same thing about the problem of pregnant women who do not want to come to the Puskesmas or Posyandu to have a pregnancy check-up. "... Lack of desire for pies ka nakes.... (Sykdr01) (lack of desire to health workers)

### *Perceptions of the Quality of Maternal Health Services*

Based on the research results, most of the informants stated that the quality of health services was good, but there were still deficiencies of health services found in the research locations. "... Puskesmas services that are not on schedule ...." (tomapr02, tomapr03, tomapr05, tomas03) (Puskesmas services are not on schedule).

According to informants for pregnant women, cadres and husbands, the quality of health services has improved with the presence of classes of pregnant women and midwives who make home visits. "... Health services for pregnant women are adequate for the ado class of pregnant women, sometimes midwives come to the house when they are on the Posyandu ..." (Prsm02, prihml 03, syihml 06) (Health services for pregnant women are adequate because there is a class for pregnant women, if they do not attend Posyandu the midwife will make a home visit) Informant community leaders also added that the Puskesmas are often not on schedule so that pregnant women prefer to go to the hospital. "... The service provided for pregnant women is in accordance with what is needed in the quality of service, but many of the mothers of mangandung are pares in the hospital (Toma PR 02) (Services provided are as needed for pregnant women in terms of service quality, but many of the pregnant women go to the hospital)

### *Perceptions of the Role of Family and Society in Pregnant Women*

One of the important factors in the implementation of optimal health service activities is the active role of families and communities through active and positive interactions as recipients of health services<sup>8</sup>. The results of group discussions with informants showed quite good results regarding the support received by mothers during pregnancy, this was revealed by health workers.

"The community sometimes asks pregnant women to see a midwife or puskesmas (synks 02) (The

community reminds mothers to check pregnancy with health workers) Cadres who have a role as community members helping the smooth running of health services also provide information in line with health workers that the community supports pregnant women to check with midwives or Puskesmas. "... the community keeps track of the posyandu schedule, usually announced through the mosque ..." (kpr02). (The community reminds the posyandu schedule through the mosque). In in-depth interviews with pregnant women informants who also explained the health services and community attention they received during pregnancy, pregnant women felt comfortable communicating with the community who shared their experiences when they were pregnant and

shared their knowledge about pregnancy. "The community of Bacarito was pregnant first (ihmlpr03-05) (The community provided support to mothers such as telling experiences during pregnancy) Community leaders also added that other support from the community is the readiness of the community to help each other when there is an emergency of pregnant women, in addition to community ambulances that have vehicles such as private cars will take pregnant women to a referral place from a midwife clinic or Puskesmas. "Urang nan lai punyo, personal auto, is also used by auto nyo for pai marujuk" (Tmsy01-03) (people are willing to lend a car as a means of referral transportation)

**Table 1: Triangulation of Research Results**

| Topic                             | Results   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                                   | Focus group discussion  | Indepth   | Observation  |
| Perceptions about health services | Informants revealed that health services were good enough   | Some informants complained about health services that were not on time. | Researchers saw antenatal facilities according to health service standards |
| Analysis                          | The community feels that the health services provided for pregnant women are still lacking, pregnant women listen more to community advice. |   |  |

**DISCUSSION**

Many myths and habits in society about pregnancy affect the mother's perspective on what to do or not do during pregnancy, the psychological condition of pregnant women will lead the mother to follow advice and directions from the surrounding environment. Interpretation received through experience and five senses produces perceptions related to one's attitudes and actions through the surrounding environment so that people's perceptions become a benchmark for improving the quality of health services<sup>9</sup>. There are two factors that influence a person's perception, namely internal factors in the form of experience, interests, attention, personal needs and moods, and external factors in the form of tangible forms of objects that interact directly with individuals<sup>10</sup>. Family and community perceptions of maternal health services greatly influence the process of utilizing pregnant women's health services<sup>10</sup>. Problems with pregnant women are complaints felt by mothers due to physical and psychological changes during pregnancy, families and communities will share positive or negative experiences they have received from local health workers and contribute to shaping the perceptions of pregnant women towards health workers and their services. According to Afrizal, the basis of relationship and knowledge about the nature of a Minangkabau community activity is called "Badunsanak" as a foothold in the kinship of the Minang people<sup>7</sup>.

One of the MCH programs, namely K4 coverage is an indicator of the success of health services for pregnant women, based on the results of the research, the researchers found that public perceptions are closely related to the desire of pregnant women to have their pregnancy check-ups, in line with research conducted by Cahya et al which found that there was a relationship between Mother's perceptions about MCH service facilities with K4 coverage.<sup>10</sup>

Yayah et al suggested that midwives as service providers who directly interact with pregnant women must have good communication so that they can provide a positive understanding of pregnant women's health services.<sup>13</sup> So far, the health problems of pregnant women have always been studied from a clinical aspect so that people think that pregnancy is a normal thing and there is no need to go to a health service if they feel healthy, nausea, vomiting and other complaints during pregnancy are things that must be faced by women when pregnant so that visits will be carried out if mother feels sick. Swasono states that the decision maker in the Minangkabau matrilineal community is the Mamak (mother's brother) so that the role of the mamak is bigger than the husband who is considered sumando in the *Rumah gadang*.

In terms of reproductive health, the Minangkabau culture positions women as Bundo Kandung who have a noble position according to Islamic religious law, this is different from gender equality

between men and women, women's rights to make decisions are the same as men but still with the consent of mamak<sup>14</sup>. Basically, the community supports maternal health services, but the mother as a member of the community feels comfortable and sufficient with communication and advice from family and community who share experiences about pregnancy, thereby reducing the interest of mothers to come to the Puskesmas or midwives for antenatal care<sup>15-22</sup>.

### CONCLUSION

Research shows that the perception of the matrilineal community affects the K4 coverage. Minangkabau customs and culture glorify and look after women according to the Shari'a so that communication from skilled midwives is needed to provide positive perceptions about maternal health services. Therefore, further research is needed on the factors that influence the perception of the Minangkabau matrilineal community towards pregnant women in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

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