

## THE PREGNANT MOTHERS' INTEREST TO CONDUCT HIV TESTING IN SUPPORTING THE PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD HIV TRANSMISSION

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### ABSTRACT

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease that continue to grow and become a global health problem which occurs in both modern and developing countries. HIV transmission can occur through needles and blood transfusions. However, it can occur from HIV-positive mother to their unborn baby. One of the ways which can be conducted by pregnant mother is conducting HIV test during pregnancy. However, there is still a lack of interest in pregnant mothers therefore many mothers do not conduct HIV tests. Whereas the mothers' interest is highly important to enhance the pregnant mothers' participation to conduct HIV test. The objective of this research was to investigate the pregnant mothers' interest in supporting the prevention of mother-to-child transmission at Godean I Health Center, Sleman Yogyakarta. The method of the research was qualitative with phenomenological approach. The informants of this research were taken by using purposive sampling technique, there were 11 informants consisting of 4 pregnant mothers who had conducted HIV test and 6 pregnant mothers who had not conducted HIV test. The result was obtained 4 themes, namely Attitude towered, Subjective norm, Perceived Behavior Control, and the mothers' interest HIV test. The conclusion is that there are still many mothers who have negative opinions related to HIV testing during pregnancy, and public perception that still considers the taboo regarding HIV testing. The informant conveyed that the support in conducting HIV test came from internal and external factors. The obstacles faced by pregnant mothers in conducting HIV tests are caused by internal and external factors. While for the interest, the majority of pregnant mothers are not interested in taking an.

**Keywords:** *Pregnant Mothers' Interst. HIV Test, PMTCT*

## INTRODUCTION

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are a disease that continues to grow, and become a global health problem that occurs in both developed and developing countries (Adhiputra, 2018). HIV transmission occurs through sexual intercourse, use of needles, blood transfusions, and transmission that occurs from pregnant women who are HIV positive to their unborn babies (Omonaiye *et al.*, 2018).

Pregnant women are a group that is very susceptible to disease. Pregnant women who are HIV positive will threaten the safety of the mother and the unborn baby. Babies who are conceived will not only be infected with HIV but are also at risk of death (Hung *et al.*, 2020). Lack of interest in pregnant women to take HIV tests is still a problem faced today. A mother's interest is very important in increasing maternal participation in HIV testing, because if the mother does not do an HIV test, the mother's HIV status is unknown, and the mother does not receive antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, which is a drug that must be taken by HIV-positive mothers during pregnancy. This will increase the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (Wardhani *et al.*, 2019).

The provision of ARV to pregnant women who are confirmed to be HIV positive is part of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) program (Widayanti, 2020). The PMTCT program has existed since 2005 and has been implemented by several regions in Indonesia. The target of the PMTCT program is that 100% of pregnant women who undergo a pregnancy check-up can receive information related to Safe Motherhood, safe sex practices, prevention and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV testing and treatment during pregnancy, as well as post-test counseling and follow-up services (Ulfah *et al.*, 2020).

Based on data obtained from the United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2018, the number of people living with HIV in the world is 36.9 million. The number of HIV-positive women increased by 50%, this was due to the large number of men who had unsafe sex. In South and Southeast Asia, there are 4 million women with HIV and AIDS during pregnancy but who screen for HIV only 7% of 359/100,000 pregnancies, this figure is still far from the target that has been set (Ayu & Ulung, 2023).

HIV cases in pregnant women in 2017 have been reported in 407 districts/cities. Based on data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia in 2020, out of 2,404 pregnant women, only 2,398 people were tested for HIV. The highest HIV cases in pregnant women were in West Papua with a percentage of 2.56%, and Yogyakarta was in the 24th place with the highest number of HIV in pregnant women after North Kalimantan (Kemenkes RI, 2021).

Data from the Yogyakarta Special Region (DIY) Health Service in 2020 regarding HIV. Cumulative HIV cases until 2019 were 1,335 cases. The highest HIV cases were found in the productive age group, namely 20-29 years and 30-39 years. Based on data in 2021, a total of 64 pregnant women with HIV were positive. Sleman occupies the third position with the highest HIV cases in pregnant women after Bantul and Gunung Kidul. In 2020, only 2 cases of pregnant women who were HIV positive in Sleman, then there was an increase in 2021 to 11 people (Heath *et al.*, 2021).

Data from the Sleman Health Service in 2021, the number of pregnant women is 10,099 people. While 9,990 people did the HIV test and 11 were HIV positive. From the data above, there are still pregnant women who do not test for HIV. from 25 health centers in the Sleman district, the health center Godean I is the health center with the most cases of pregnant women who were confirmed to be HIV positive in 2019, namely 36 people (Dinkes Sleman, 2020).

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting research related to “The Pregnant Mothers’ Interest To Conduct Hiv Testing In Supporting The Prevention Of Mother-To-Child Hiv Transmission”

## **METHODS**

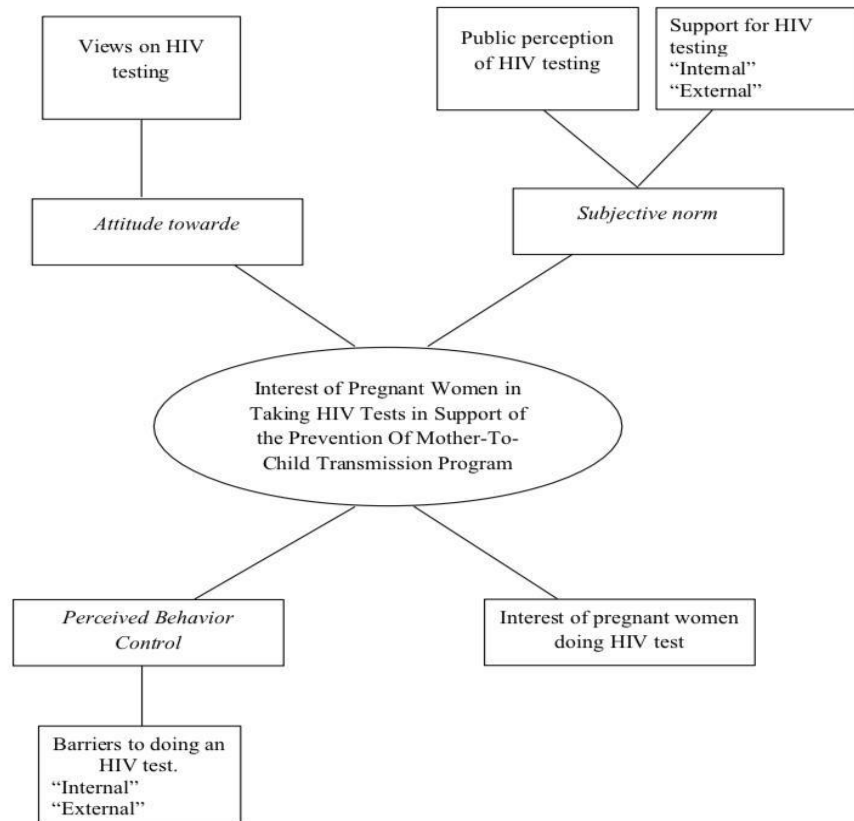
This research is qualitative research with a phenomenological approach. The participants in this study were pregnant women who took an HIV test and pregnant women who did not do an HIV test at the Public Health Center Godean I. Participants were determined using a purposive sampling technique. This study uses primary data sources. The research data was obtained by interviewing 11 informants, in a face-to-face interview with an interview time per informant of  $\pm$  15-25 minutes. The interview process was carried out using an interview guide that had previously been tested (pilot interview) on informants who had the same characteristics as the informants used. The research was conducted after

obtaining approval from the ethics committee of Aisyiyah University Yogyakarta and obtaining permission from the Sleman Health Office and Godean I Health Center which will be used as research sites. Previously, the informant was also given an explanation related to the research to be carried out, after the informant agreed and signed the informed consent, the researcher made a time contract with the informant and asked the informant whether the interview was conducted online or offline. The research was conducted at the Public Health Center Godea I, Sleman Yogyakarta, which was conducted for two weeks. The data obtained in this study were analyzed manually and guided by the theory of Michael & Huberman in 2010 which consisted of data analysis, data reduction, data presentation, conclusion drawing, and verification.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### Result of the research

From the results of the research that has been done, four themes have been obtained. The first theme is *Attitude towarde* with a sub-theme of views related to HIV testing. The second theme is Subjective norm with sub-themes of public perception regarding HIV testing, and support for conducting HIV tests. The third theme is Perceived Behavior Control with a sub-theme of obstacles in carrying out an HIV test. The fourth theme is the mother's interest in HIV testing. The themes and sub-themes in this study are described in chart 1 as follows:



## Discussion

Based on the results of research that has been carried out regarding "The Pregnant Mothers' Interest To Conduct Hiv Testing In Supporting The Prevention Of Mother-To-Child Hiv Transmission" and obtained 4 research theme. The first theme is Attitude towarde (attitude towards behavior). Attitude is a tendency to respond to things that are liked by someone (Ajzen, 2012). Attitude towards a behavior is the first variable that affects a person's intention to behave. When individuals think positively of action, they will have the will to do that action<sup>12</sup>. Attitude towarde is a belief in positive feelings or negative feelings to display a certain behavior. A person will perform a certain behavior if they evaluate it positively (Ajzen, 2012)

From the results of the study, it was found that pregnant women had positive and negative attitudes towards HIV testing. Mothers who have a positive attitude will be interested in taking an HIV test and vice versa, mothers who have a negative attitude will definitely not intend to do an HIV test. This is in accordance with research conducted by<sup>11</sup>, results of this study saying that a person will have an intention if that person has a positive view of what will be done. When someone knows about the things they are doing, the benefits, and the impact that will be obtained positively, they will do it<sup>11</sup>. When someone has a positive attitude and knows the effects, and the perceived impact, then they will be easy to accept and intend to do something (Hutagaol, 2022).

A subjective norm theme is an individual's belief that is obtained from the views of others on the object of attitude related to the individual<sup>11</sup>. Subjective norms originate from the influence of other people who are considered important. People who are in an environment that gives positive encouragement to individuals to do something, then the individual will have the intention to do that. Conversely, if the individual lives or is in an environment that does not agree with the recommended positive behavior, the intention to do something will also not exist (Famil, 2021).

The results of the research on Subjective norm reveal the community's views regarding HIV testing and support for carrying out HIV tests both internally and externally. People's views that are still considered taboo regarding HIV testing have resulted in them not taking an HIV test. There are still many people who do not do an HIV test because they feel ashamed of the negative stigma they get from both the community and their partners so that which causes mothers to be reluctant to take an HIV test. The fear of being ostracized, experiencing physical and verbal violence, gossip, and even being divorced by her husband makes the community, especially pregnant women, reluctant to take an HIV test (Syagran & Setianto, 2021).

From the results of research on support for HIV testing, it is said that the support that pregnant women get to do an HIV test comes from internal and external factors. Support for pregnant women comes from husbands, family, and friends. Research conducted by<sup>16</sup> states that the husband's support and participation in carrying out HIV tests on pregnant women has a positive impact on the intentions of pregnant women to be able to do an HIV test. A husband's support is very important for mothers and helps mothers in making decisions to do or not to do an HIV test (Dewi *et al.*, 2021). A husband's support is very important for pregnant

women. Pregnant women need support from their partners to be able to do something positive, for example an HIV test<sup>17</sup>.

The theme of Perceived Behavior Control or behavioral control is an individual's perception of how easy or difficult it is to carry out a behavior. 11. The results of research on Perceived Behavior Control, reveal that there are obstacles for pregnant women to do an HIV test. These obstacles come from internal and external factors. The lack of willingness of pregnant women to take an HIV test causes the mother not to take an HIV test, this is in accordance with research which says that if pregnant women have knowledge about HIV testing but do not have the will or belief in HIV testing then they will not take an HIV test (Simangunsong *et al.*, 2020). The higher the willingness or preparedness of a person to do something, the greater the desire to do it and vice versa (Sekar *et al.*, 2021).

External factors that cause pregnant women not to do HIV tests are due to the lack of education they receive from health workers, especially regarding HIV testing, which causes knowledge that is still lacking. The lack of knowledge is caused by the lack of education they receive regarding the need to take an HIV test during pregnancy. The lack of knowledge and education obtained by mothers regarding the necessity of taking an HIV test causes mothers not to take an HIV test (Irmayati *et al.*, 2019) This is due to the better knowledge of mothers and the more frequent education they receive regarding HIV testing, the more likely mothers are to be able to do an HIV test (Putri *et al.*, 2021).

The theme of pregnant mothers' interest conduct HIV test or intention is defined become individual subjective probability dimension related to self and behavior<sup>11</sup>. The interest or desire of pregnant mothers to conduct or not to conduct HIV test will be different from one to another. The result showed that many mothers who do not interest conduct HIV test. There is no mothers' interest is due to support from the partner, good knowledge, and positive perception of what will be conducted so someone will have the intention to do something later (Agnes *et al.*, 2020). Positive perception, knowledge, support for HIV test have also relationship with the mothers' desire to do HIV test. That is conveyed those positive perceptions, knowledge, support will affect the mothers' desire to do PMCT, namely the higher HIV test. On the other hand negative perceptions that is lack of knowledge and family support also affect the mothers' desire to conduct HIV (Agnes *et al.*, 2020).

The limitations of this study are that the data collection in this study is only seen from the point of view of pregnant women who have had an HIV test and pregnant women who have not done an HIV test, so it is less varied than if there is also data from the point of view of health workers and husbands, or family related to the interest of pregnant women in carrying out HIV tests. The novelty of this study with previous research is that this study focuses on finding out the interest of pregnant women to do a qualitative HIV test and using participants from two different poles so that the data obtained is more in-depth and informative from two different perspectives. Research on interest in this study uses the theory of Fishbein and Ajzen, 2010 where the interest can be seen in terms of attitude toward behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavior control which are expected to provide more complete information. The hope for further research is to expand the study not only to see the interests from the mother's perspective but also from the perspective of health workers and people in their environment such as husbands, parents, and others so that they can find different findings from this research.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the research that has been done, there are 4 themes. Theme 1 Attitude toward with sub-theme views of pregnant women related to HIV testing, there are positive and negative views. Then for the second theme Subjective norm there are 2 sub themes, namely public perception regarding HIV testing, and support in carrying out HIV tests. From the collected data, many informants said that the community still considered it taboo related to HIV testing. Meanwhile, for support for conducting an HIV test, the informant said that support came from her husband, family, and friends. For theme 3 Control beliefs with 1 sub-theme of obstacles in doing HIV tests, it is said that the obstacles to doing HIV tests come from internal and external factors. Internal factors consist of willingness and knowledge, while external factors are caused by the lack of education provided by the midwife and the absence of the husband's support. Theme 4 regarding the interest of pregnant women in taking HIV tests, it can be concluded that the interest of pregnant women to take HIV tests is still lacking, there are still many pregnant women who are reluctant to take HIV tests.

It is hoped that this research can increase the interest of mothers to do HIV tests so that they can reduce the mortality and morbidity rates



for mothers and babies caused by HIV. And for the health office and public health center, it is hoped that the research can be used as an evaluation material to make or enforce policies optimally, and for the public health center it can also improve services, especially regarding the provision of counseling related to HIV and the necessity to do HIV tests for pregnant women. Future researchers are expected to further expand the study not only to see the interests of mothers but also from the perspective of health workers and people in their environment such as husbands, parents, and others so that they can find different findings from this study.

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