

DETERMINANTS OF MOTHER'S CHOICE OF PLACE DELIVERY IN COMMUNITY OF BAJO, MUNA DISTRICT: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Background: Muna is the area where Bajo community prefer to choose shaman for giving birth

Objectives: This study aims to determine the reasons why mothers choose shamans or midwives to give birth in Renda Village, Towea Subdistrict, Muna District.

Methods: This was a descriptive qualitative study to investigate determinants of mother's choice of place delivery in Renda Towea village of Muna, Indonesia. In-depth interview was performed to three mothers who gave birth with Shaman, and two mothers with Midwives. This study was conducted on July, 2016 in the village of Renda Towea, Muna district. Data were analyzed by content analysis model using Colaizzi's method of data analysis.

Results: Results were grouped into: Reasons to choose midwives to give birth (Health concern, Family support, and Complete facilities), and Reasons to select shaman to give birth (Tradition, Financial concern, Short distance, Lack of information)

Conclusions: Various reasons of mothers in choosing maternal care services. The findings of this study suggest that the government and health care providers should create the collaboration between midwives and shaman, increase financial support, and increase and evaluate health visitations to this community.

Key words: selecting maternal care, shaman, pregnant women, midwives

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is still haunted by high number of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) although the rate is increased from 34 maternal deaths per 1000 live birth in 2007 to 23 maternal deaths per 1000 live birth in 2012.¹ One factor that greatly affects the occurrence of maternal deaths and infant is the ability and skill of the birth helpers, as Making Pregnancy Safer

said that every delivery should be assisted by skilled health personnel.

Based on the report of Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Health Office, it indicates that the scope of delivery assistance by skilled health personnel in 2011 is 77.24%, in 2012 (68.29%), 2013 (82.16%), 2014 (83.98%) and 2015 (79.52%). If compared to the national target (95%), the scope of delivery

assistance by health personnel in Southeast Sulawesi is still below the national target. It is due to the belief of people to give birth with shaman.²

Muna is the area where the people prefer to choose shaman for giving birth. It is in the village of Bajo Renda, Towea district. Bajo is a community that inhabits most in the coast. Most of Bajo's people came under pressure from much of the access to information and education that affect their behavior in the use of health services. Renda village is one of the working areas of Puskesmas Towea. Based on data from health centers, the scope of delivery by health personnel to the village of Renda continued to decline, in 2014 deliveries by health workers were 5 deliveries of 12 the number of women giving birth (41.66%), and in 2015 as many as three deliveries of 9 the number of women giving birth (33.33%).³ However, there is no research to support the reasons of mothers in choosing maternal care services. Thus, this calls for efforts to investigate the perspective of mothers in selecting the maternal care services.

METHODS

This was a descriptive qualitative study to investigate determinants of selecting maternal health services in Renda Towea village of Muna, Indonesia. In-depth interview was performed to three mothers who gave birth with Shaman, and two mothers with Midwives. This study was conducted on July, 2016 in the village of Renda Towea, Muna district. Data were analyzed by content analysis model using Colaizzi's method of data analysis.⁴

RESULTS

Findings emerged from data were divided to be two groups: The reasons choosing Midwives to give birth, and reasons choosing Shaman to give birth.

1. Reasons choosing midwives to give birth

There are two subthemes emerged from data:

Health Concern for mothers and baby

It is indicated that health concern becomes the reason to choose midwives to give birth as participants express in the following statements:

"I choose midwives because I want to be safe for me and my baby" (i1)

"Giving birth made me feel good because she can take care of me and they are educated people" (i2)

Family support

All participants agreed that they choose midwives because of family support, as they express:

"My family suggests me to give birth with midwives, I think they know better than me because they had experiences" (i1)

"My family supports me to give birth with midwives, like my mom and my husband advice me to believe in everything midwives said" (i2)

2. Reasons choosing shaman to give birth

There are four reasons why mothers choose shaman, namely:

Tradition

Participants agreed that they chose shaman because of their tradition, as the participants express in the following statement:

"Most of my families gave birth with shaman, so I need to follow the tradition" (S1)

"I never heard any problems giving birth with shaman, so I choose her" (S2)

Financial concern

Money is considered to be a factor why choosing shaman, as participants said:

"We don't have enough money to give birth with midwives, so we choose shaman" (S1)

“Giving birth with shaman is cheaper, and never heard anyone complain” (S2)

Short distance

Participants express that they choose shaman because of the short distance like participants mention:

“It’s far from my place to go to midwife’s place or any health center like Public Health Center Tampo, so I better go to shaman” (S1)

“I need to use boat to go to health center or midwife, it will be around 40-50 minutes. I am afraid I will give birth on boat, so better to choose shaman that near my place and I can call shaman to my place too” (S2)

Lack of Information

Participants did not get much information regarding maternal services, as participants said:

“I don’t know the information about the difference between shaman and midwife, they help woman to give birth. So they will do the best for my birth” (S1)

“I get no information to give birth” (S2)

DISCUSSIONS

This study was conducted to explore the perspective of mothers why choose midwives and shaman for giving birth. There were two groups with subthemes emerged from data, namely Reasons choosing midwives to give birth (Health concern, Family support, and Complete facilities), Reasons choosing shaman to give birth (Tradition, Financial concern, Short distance, and Lack of information)

Reasons choosing midwives to give birth

Under the theme “Health Concern for mothers and baby” indicated that the mother already had the knowledge and information regarding her birth. The participants believe that giving birth with midwives is safe for them and their babies because midwives are educated profession

with good knowledge they get in their education. It is consistent with previous study said that baby’s safety strongly influences the decision of mothers to choose maternal care services.⁵ They also want the best for their infants, health and normal development.⁶

Under the theme “Family support” indicated that the decision of mothers are influenced by family, especially husband. It is also considered that Maternity pregnant women are not fully authorized. Therefore, family or husband gives a substantial contribution in decision making deliveries.⁷ Husband in this regard has a responsibility to give his best for his wife. Similar reason also found in previous study mentioned that husband or family is the common reason of mothers that contributed to her decision to choose maternal care.⁸

Reasons choosing shaman to give birth

Under the theme “Tradition” indicated that some mothers in this study still follow the tradition that mothers should give birth with shaman. This is happening because the mothers and other residents have very strong social bonds, which occurred not limited within the scope of the family, but also on other social units. The persistent high social ties can facilitate the process of retention of traditions that exist in society.⁹ Thus, the traditional role of shaman becomes stronger in this community. However, the presence of shaman who settled in this community is also influenced by previous experiences, as well as a comfortable feeling and relationship with the shaman.¹⁰

It should be main concern in this study because tradition might not be the best reason as long as it is related to the life of mothers. In this regard, shaman and midwives might need to collaborate each that might be the better way for mothers in this village, like previous study said

shaman or traditional healer should be seen as a resource for primary health care and social welfare because they know the cognitive symbols and processes of their communities and cultures, they are also well-positioned to address community health issues such as certain physical illnesses, health education, woman empowerment, etc.¹¹

Under the theme “Financial concern” indicated that money is influencing the decision of mothers in choosing the maternal services. In this study, majority of Bajo community is living as a fisherman and financial factor is considered as a problem for birth delivery. It also can be seen from the difference in tariffs given by midwife¹² and shaman that the less expenses is from the services of shaman. Therefore, it becomes one of the reasons that mothers choose shamans as helper labor.¹³ The previous study also indicated that one of three reasons contribute to mothers decision for birth delivery is less medical expenses.⁸

Under the theme “Short distance” indicated that mothers had difficulties to reach health centers in this study. The only easy access is to go to shaman because of the distance. It is consistent with previous study said that pregnant women choose shaman because she lives near their homes,¹⁴ and another study said that long distance forces women to seek assistance from nonskilled service providers.¹⁵

Under the theme “Lack of Information” indicated that mothers in this study had no information to choose their maternal care services. We need to consider that every pregnant woman needs to know the maternity care, the health care provide, and place of birth that will influence the care she receives in powerful ways. Therefore, childbirth education can help women simplify pregnancy and birth and be a resource for understanding how

decision about maternity care influence the health and safety of mothers and babies.¹⁶

CONCLUSIONS

This study determined the reasons why mothers choose shaman and midwives for their birth. In-depth interview revealed that health concern for mother and baby and family support as the reasons of mothers choose midwives. While the reasons to choose shaman include tradition, financial factor, short distance, and lack of information. The findings of this study contribute to the health care providers and governments in this community as explained in the following statements:

- The collaboration between shaman and midwives is needed because shaman has a well positioned for their community as their belief for health education, caring, and women empowerment. The role of shaman cannot be underestimated, they just need to be assisted with skilled midwives.
- Government should consider the access because of the distance to reach health center needs high effort.
- Financial support should be considered for mothers to get the best care because every woman has a right to get safe place for their birth
- The role of health centers should be increased to routinely visit this community to maintain their health by check up, health education, and empower them to take care of themselves

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