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JONAS EDRIAN SUMAMPOUW: FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MOTHERS HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR FOR TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD DIARRHOEAL DISEASE IN INDONESIA. THESIS ADVISORS: ASST. PROF. URAIWAN KANUNGSUKKASEM, Ph.D., ALAN NOEL GRAY, Ph.D. 61 P. ISBN 974-664-609-5

Although many efforts have been made by the Indonesian Government to control diarrhoeal disease, the morbidity of diarrhoea among children under five years remains high. One of the reasons for such a high morbidity may be attributed to the under-utilization of modern health facilities. This study has analyzed factors associated with Indonesian mothers' health seeking behaviour for treatment of their children's diarrhoea. Children data file from the 1997 Indonesian Demographic Health Survey (IDHS). Only 1,603 children under five years who had diarrhoea within 14 days prior to the survey, were selected as the sample, and their mothers were given a questionnaire.

It was found that modern treatment was most frequently used by mothers regarding their choice of care (54 per cent), followed by no treatment and self-treatment. Traditional healers were least frequently reported as a choice of care (4.5 per cent). Multinomial logistic regression was used to assess the net effect of several independent variables on the dependent variable. The findings also revealed that of the eleven independent variables, age of mothers, level of education, mothers' knowledge of ORT, age of children, duration of diarrhoea, and symptoms and signs of diarrhoea were statistically significant factors affecting mothers' choice of care. Other variables such as mothers' place of residence, mothers' labour force status, mothers' religion, mothers' accessibility to source of care and children's sex were not found to be significant.

The result of this study indicates that education plays a major role in mothers' decision making to seek care for their children along with their knowledge of ORT. Thus, it can be suggested that educating mothers is essential in order to increase their knowledge, especially knowledge of how to deal with diarrhoeal disease as soon as possible. To accelerate achieving the goals of the diarrhoeal disease control program in Indonesia, one important element is to target younger mothers. Emphasis should be given on educating them and providing them with knowledge, not only on how to use ORS or ORT, but also on how to identify signs of dehydration, and to seek timely medical care.