

4138478 PRRH/M : MAJOR: POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH; M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

KEY WORDS : MOTHER / FACTORS / BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES / NORTH SULAWESI / INDONESIA / 99

YVONNE MARGARETHA KAUNANG: FACTORS INFLUENCING BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES OF MOTHERS IN NORTH SULAWESI PROVINCE, INDONESIA. THESIS ADVISORS WASSANA IM-EM, Ph.D., MASAKI MATSUMURA, Ph.D., 51 P. ISBN 974-663-007-5

Breastfeeding is important for the health and survival of infants. In North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, breastfeeding is almost universal. However, there are variations in the prevalence and duration of breastfeeding from area to area in the province. The duration of breastfeeding is still shorter in many urban areas, as well as in some of the rural areas. This study explores the factors influencing breastfeeding practices of mothers in North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia.

In this study, secondary data from the Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) conducted in 1994 was used. The subjects considered in this study were 402 breastfeeding mothers aged 15-49 years. To study the factors influencing the breastfeeding practices, ten variables under three broad categories, namely characteristics of mothers, health care characteristics of mothers and characteristics of husbands were selected. The variables included under the characteristics of mothers were age of mother, age at first birth, education of mother, place of residence, and work status of mother. The variables included under the health care characteristics were antenatal care, time of giving birth, and place of delivery. The variables included under the characteristics of husbands were occupation and education of husbands.

The age of mother was found to have a significant relationship with the duration of breastfeeding. The duration of breastfeeding was found to be shorter among the younger age group compared to the older age group. The other nine variables, although not significant, showed some differences in the duration of breastfeeding. Duration of breastfeeding was shorter than 24 months on average.

The study included only some selected variables from the data and an attempt was made to identify some of the factors influencing breastfeeding practices. Hence, study of other related factors will be of immense help to improve the knowledge about breastfeeding practices of mothers in North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia.