

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	International Health Development (MPH)	Name	SUNAI, Shutaro
Thesis Title	Difference in antenatal care visit between two rural counties, Dili District, Timor-Leste.		

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Objectives:

Maternal and child health were still worse in Timor-Leste although those can be improved by utilization of primary health care services. Challenges in access to maternal and child health services were observed in rural areas in the country. NGO SHARE implements a project in Dili, Timor-Leste to promote utilization of health services and the baseline survey was undertaken to clarify the situation of utilization of health services. This study aimed to provide findings and recommendations to the project and NGO's activities, and investigated utilization of antenatal care use. The specific objectives were to describe the patterns of antenatal care use in the two counties and to explore determinants for four or more antenatal care visits.

Methods:

Data from a cross sectional survey of maternal health service use of 111 participants in the two counties of Dili district, Timor-Leste, were used for proportional difference between the two counties in utilization of antenatal care and other characteristics. Additionally, the logistic regression analysis was used to study the determinants of four or more antenatal care visits by ascertaining the associations between four or more visits and the explanatory factors with controlling confounding factors.

Results:

Around 92 percent of the participants in both counties made at least one antenatal care visit. Fifty-one percent achieved the first antenatal care visit within the recommended timing. Sixty-two percent of Metinaro participants made four or more antenatal visits, while only 44 percent of Atauro participants achieved it. Regional difference in environment of antenatal care use was observed as well. The results of multivariate analysis of the final model found that the number of received components at the first ANC did not influence on the achievement (OR = 1.047; 95% CI: 0.918-1.199; p = 0.500). The month of pregnancy at the first ANC influenced on the achievement even after controlling effects of confounders (OR = 0.376; 95% CI: 0.161-0.853; p = 0.021).

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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<p>Discussion and Conclusion:</p> <p>Atauro were less likely to achieve 4 or more ANC visits. Their accessible services were not regularly operated. However, many health posts exist in Atauro and Atauro participants can go for ANC alone, such environment can shorten the gap between the two counties in at least one ANC visit. Metinaro participants were more likely to achieve 4 or more ANC visits. Higher educational level and regularly opened health center may influence. However, accompany by husband for ANC may make it harder for women to access to a health facility. The study confirmed the difference in the patterns of antenatal care use between the two counties. Additionally, every woman is encouraged to go for 1st ANC in 1st trimester of pregnancy. The health office should ensure opening of health facility, implementation of regular outreach for rural communities and regular monitoring and supervision towards health staff in health posts.</p> <p>[464 words]</p>			

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