

**ABSTRACT**

**EXPERIENCE AND PERCEPTION DEEPLY DURING TREATING  
LEPERS**

*Qualitative Research Phenomenology*

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**Introduction:** Experience and perception are convinced as the factors to support people toward their success. This study aims to find out nurses' experience and perception deeply during treating lepers. **Method:** This study uses a qualitative design with a phenomenological approach in which data is collected by interview deeply. There are 32 health center (*puskesmas*) in Surabaya. In this circumstance, the sample of this study is 12 participants who are represented by 1 participant in each health center (*puskesmas*). Besides, inclusion criteria are the nurses who are responsible to the leprosy. In this study, data analysis used is *Colaizzi* method. **Result:** This study identifies 7 themes including theme 1: the participants' responses using two themes such as positive, and negative responses. Theme 2: the disease description with good understanding theme. Theme 3: changes experienced by two subthemes in which are physical, and activity changes. Theme 4: supporting system with one sub—theme namely external support. Theme 5: obstacles faced during using 2 sub-themes in which are communication and health service' limitation. Theme 6: efforts to resolve the problems using one sub-theme namely adaptive behavior. Theme 7: leprosy stigma using one sub-theme namely leprosy nurses' perception. **Discussion:** in this study, there are still participants who refuse when they are given for the first task being nurses who are responsible to leprosy program in health center (*puskesmas*). In this case, they express various responses such as rejecting, bargaining but not all of them show their rejection. On the other hand, there are still participants who sincerely accept their new responsibility. The participants also deliver the good understanding about leprosy, and they say that leprosy is a disease in which is able to be cured with proper and regularly treatment. Many changes got by the participants since they are asked to be responsible toward lepers, in case, they recognize that they have physical change such as insomnia because of thinking about their new responsibility. From 12 participants who conduct interview deeply, the participants who feel disgusted are male participants. The limited medical staff in the health center (*puskesmas*) affects to the treatment of lepers. Moreover, the limitation of facilities influences the treatment in health center. Therefore, health workers especially those who deal directly with lepers, they must have good experience and perception in order to provide service maximally, and reduce the number of leprosy. As the health workers, they are not only providing good treatment, they also must competent to relieve the negative stigma about leprosy in the society.

Keywords: Experience, Perception, Leprosy

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