

ABSTRACT

**PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE USE OF MISWAK AMONG
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN SURABAYA**

Background: Maintaining proper oral hygiene is important to prevent more serious diseases resulting from bad oral hygiene. Brushing teeth is one of the ways to maintain oral hygiene. Miswak can be used as an alternative to brush the teeth. Miswak is known to have some effects like antimicrobial, anticariogenic, and antiinflammation. Most people choose to use modern toothbrush instead of a miswak, but miswak users still can be found among Muslim communities. The use of miswak has been left-out by most of people. The reason why some people still maintain the use of miswak is yet to be known. **Purpose:** To understand the reason why some of Muslim in Surabaya choose to use miswak and why the others don't. **Methods:** This research is designed as a phenomenological study. Participant recruitment is done by social media with snowball sampling until the data is saturated. In-depth interview via video call or telephone is used to collect the data. The data is analyzed manually with Braun and Clarke thematic analysis. **Result:** Data found to be saturated with total of 21 participants (11 miswak users, 10 toothbrush users) aged 18 – 38. The reasons obtained then divided into 3 big themes: internal and external factors, and interactions between both factors. Internal factors found in this study are religious belief, perception of siwak's benefit, and self-efficacy. External factors found are social environment, social support, role modelling, and access to siwak. **Conclusion:** The reason behind the use of miswak in some of Muslim in Surabaya is to obey the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad PBUH which is also supported by perceived benefit and self-efficacy. Supportive environment, teachers as role models, and easy access to miswak also keep them to maintain the use of miswak.

Keywords: Phenomenology, siwak, social cognitive theory, behavior

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