

## ABSTRACT

Diarhea is soft defecation or liquid-shaped more than three times a day with or without blood or mucus in faeces. Diarhea patients in Puskesmas Kuaru in 2006 showed the greatest illness rate in children under 5 years of age, with 369 cases in 2005 and 386 cases in 2006. This research was aimed to describe knowledge and attitude of mothers about diarhea disease on level of dehydration on children under 5 years old in Puskesmas Kuaru, Kabupaten Pasir.

It was descriptive research with 61 samples of children under 5 years old suffering from dehydration in work area of Puskesmas Kuaru that qualified research requisites. Investigated variables were mother age, mother education, working status, age of children under 5 years old, children under 5 years old's immunisation status, mother knowledge about diarhea disease and mother attitude toward diarhea disease.

it was obtained that respondents with their child under 5 years old who experienced many dehydration were 18-25 years old group, Primary School level education, and unemployment. In children with 1-3 years old, complete immunisation. While in knowledge level and attitude toward diarhea disease, those who experienced dehydration more were those with poor knowledge and poor attitude.

It could be concluded that mother's knowledge and attitude determined level of dehydration on her children under 5 years old. But the attitude and knowledge itself was not enough, it was necessary to take healthy measure or behavior in daily life and trying to create healthy environment thus the children under 5 years old could be prevented from diarhea disease which resulted in dehydration.

Keywords: dehydration, mother's knowledge and attitude