

ABSTRACT**The Influence of Prenatal Classes to the Practice of Early Initiation of Breastfeeding and Duration of Breastfeeding in Sisir Public Health Care Batu City**

Early initiation and duration of breastfeeding from birth to six months of age are the two breastfeeding practices which are essential for the survival and optimal growth of the baby. Prenatal classes are structured learning method in pregnant women that is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of mothers about pregnancy, prenatal care, childbirth, postnatal care, and newborn care. The success of early initiation of breastfeeding is one of the goals of the prenatal classes. Design research is retrospective cohort study which aims to analyze the influence of prenatal classes to the practice of early initiation of breastfeeding, the factors that influence the behavior of early breastfeeding initiation, and duration of breastfeeding. The study subjects are 32 women who follow and never follow a class of pregnant women during the last pregnancy. The subjects are taken by Systematic Random Sampling. Data is taken by using a questionnaire and is analyzed by using Fisher's Exact Test with $\alpha = 0.05$. Prenatal classes influence the level of knowledge of mothers ($p=0.03$), prenatal classes influence the attitudes related to early initiation of breastfeeding ($p=0.016$). Factors which influence the early initiation of breastfeeding are paritas ($p=0,011$), mother's knowledge ($p=0,047$), birth attendant ($p=0,017$), place of delivery ($p=0,003$) and type of delivery ($p=0,021$), and the counseling practice when mothers are inlabour ($p=0,000$). Another factor that influences duration of breastfeeding is mother's job ($0,029$). The conclusion is mother's participation in prenatal classes influence mother's knowledge and attitudes, but it has not been able to change the practice of early initiation of breastfeeding. Early initiation of breastfeeding is influenced by birth attendants, place of delivery, and counseling during pregnancy.

Keywords: Pregnancy classes, Early Initiation of Breastfeeding