



## The Relationship of Mother's Knowledge about Dental Caries and Mother's Behavior in Preventing Dental Careies in Children

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### Abstract

Dental caries is damage that occurs in the hard tissue of the teeth caused by various factors. Dental caries is not uncommon in early childhood. The results of UKTK examinations conducted in Sojomerto Village, Gemuh District, Kendal Regency showed that there were 58 out of 124 children examined. Which results are examinations carried out at the three PAUD institutions. This means that almost 50% of children at these ages experience dental caries problems. Dental health problems in children cannot be separated from the role of parents, especially mothers in understanding, maintaining, and bringing together children's dental health. So in this study the aim was to determine the relationship between mother's knowledge about dental caries and mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children (research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute). This research method is quantitative with the research approach used is cross sectional. Data collection techniques using questionnaires or questionnaires using simple random sampling techniques. Respondents who were involved were 61 mothers who had children who attended PAUD institutions in Sojomerto village. This study used data analysis techniques in the form of Rank Spearman to determine the relationship between the two variables. The results show that the average value of the independent variable is 22.36 which is included in the medium knowledge category. While the average value of the dependent variable has a score of 108 which is in the pretty good category for maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children. Based on the data analysis test that there is a significant relationship between mother's knowledge about dental caries and mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children (research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute). The results of the Spearman Rank test show that the P Value is 0.000. This means that the P Value  $< 0.005$  ( $0.000 < 0.005$ ) which means that  $H_a$  is accepted and  $H_o$  is rejected. Where  $H_a$  reads "There is a relationship between mother's knowledge about dental caries and mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children (research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD institution)". With a correlation coefficient value of 0.565 which means it has a moderate relationship, and also has a positive direction where  $r_{count} > r_{table}$ .

### How to cite

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## INTRODUCTION

Health is an element that is the basic potential that an individual has as a necessity at the beginning of life and during the development period (Sampoerna, 2008:23-27). A nation can be said to be advanced when it is able to produce quality human resources. It cannot be denied that efforts to create quality human resources cannot be separated from efforts to develop good health. Various efforts can be made to grow the will, awareness and ability of each individual to live a healthy life. It was explained that health efforts are carried out with various activities through promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative approaches which are implemented in an integrated, comprehensive and sustainable manner, this is stated in Health Law number 36 of 2009 Chapter IV article 47.

Early childhood is a sensitive period or life cycle related to a child's growth and development. During this period, when a child gets the right needs in terms of nutrition, care, environment and stimulation, it will have an impact on development and growth in the future. Therefore, there needs to be more attention, especially to health. One of the supporting factors in achieving this growth and development cannot be separated from the health of children. In childhood, the body's immune system is not yet fully balanced, and it is not uncommon for children to be vulnerable to disease at this age. Parts of the body that are not spared from frequent disorders are related to dental and oral health. All of this cannot be separated from the role of parents, teachers and the environment in providing care to children. This support can be provided by families to stimulate children's growth (Aydos & Tugrul in Nurul 2017). Another opinion expressed by Satoto in Handayani (2015) explains that growth and development are influenced by the parenting environment, family environment, mother, child characteristics, and food consumption.

According to Minister of Health Regulation number 89 of 2015, dental and oral health is a healthy condition of both the hard tissue and soft tissue of the teeth and other related elements in the oral cavity, which allows individuals to eat, talk and interact socially without dysfunction or aesthetic disturbances. , as well as discomfort due to disease, tooth loss, and irregular grafting, this results in the inability to live a productive life both economically and socially. Teeth are a part of the body that is integrated with other parts of the body. When problems or damage occur to the teeth, it will affect the health function of other

parts or members of the body. This can have an impact on the child's daily activities and will be disrupted by this dental problem. Dental problems, one of which is dental caries, which often occurs in early childhood, are fundamental and important to receive attention, because dental caries is an indicator of the success of efforts to maintain dental health in children.

Based on data from the 2018 RISKESDAS report for Central Java Province, it shows that the percentage is related to dental and oral problems, where the highest percentage occurs in the 5-9 year age group as much as 69.36%, while in the 3-4 year old group it is 42.11%. From this data, there are cases related to dental and oral problems, namely damaged/cavity/sick teeth, 53.51% at ages 5-9 years, and 38.40% at ages 3-4 years.

Kendal Regency is one of the districts in Central Java, where data relating to dental and oral problems has a percentage of 44.24%, the highest position is found in cavities/damaged/sick tooth problems at 34.10% compared to other dental problems. With treatment as much as 2.03% going to a dental specialist, 13.55% going to a dentist, 2.00% going to a dental nurse, 9.36% going to a general practitioner, 1.60% going to a dentist, and 47.33% handling or self-medication. If we look at the distribution location, dental and oral health problems occur mostly in rural communities with a figure of 57.46% (RISKESDAS JATENG, 2018).

From this data, rural areas have a higher percentage of the distribution of dental problems. Sojomerto Village is one of the villages in Gemuh District with rural characteristics, which has the largest population in Gemuh District. With a large population, Sojomerto Village is divided into several regional divisions, namely Krajan and Hamlet, there are 8 RWs and 37 RTs. With the vast area of Sojomerto Village, there are educational facilities, one of which is the PAUD institution. There are 3 PAUD institutions in Sojomerto Village, namely KB Harapan Bunda, PAUD Tunas Athfal, and TK Muslimat NU 03 Sojomerto. With the number of students amounting to 156 of the total number of students in these three institutions. Based on preliminary studies, there are several things related to student health. One of them is the fairly high incidence of dental caries experienced by students. Data from the results of UKTK examinations carried out in Sojomerto Village, Gemuh District, Kendal Regency showed that there were 58 out of 124 children examined. The results are from examinations carried out at the three PAUD institutions. This means that almost 50% of children

at this age experience dental caries problems. (Sojomerto Village Health Officer Data, 2020). The results of UKTK examinations carried out by community health center officers showed that from a total of 24 institutions in the Puakesmas 1 working area, of the 16 PAUD institutions, 316 children experienced dental caries out of a total of 531 children examined (UKTK Examination Data at Gemuh Community Health Center 1).

Several factors influence the occurrence of dental caries in children. Hamada in Adiansyah (2020) states that the factors that influence the occurrence of dental caries include microorganisms, host (saliva and teeth), substrate (carbohydrates) which is also accompanied by the time factor. Apart from these main factors, there are several other factors as explained by Sondang and Hamada in Rara (2017) who state that dental caries can get worse, including age, socio-economic, gender, caries experience, geographical factors and behavior. on dental health.

Based on a preliminary study of the three PAUD institutions in Sojomerto Village, the education level of the majority of parents, especially mothers, is junior high school. With a percentage of around 50% middle school, 40% elementary school, and 10% high school. Where, most mothers do not work or act as housewives. Meanwhile, some work in agriculture. Factors that influence a person's level of knowledge include education, age, experience, social, cultural and economic conditions, mass media, and the environment. Regarding existing cases of dental caries, parents have an important role in preventing and treating their children. The mother's actions or behavior in an effort to care for her child's health are important. According to Syahreni in Astuti (2017) states that behavior is an activity carried out by an individual (person), whether observed directly or indirectly. Which is related to dental caries disorders, actions or behavior in preventing, caring for and maintaining health, especially teeth, both directly and indirectly.

The results of a preliminary study conducted at the Sojomerto village PAUD institution involving 7 mothers said that 5 mothers had children who had cavities. 1 mother said her child did not have cavities but had damaged front teeth. 1 mother has a child with healthy teeth. Mothers whose children have cavities say that their teeth hurt suddenly. Some mothers believe that toothache in children is caused by foods made from chocolate or sweet foods (candy). All of the mothers said they had never had an examination by a dentist. When a child has a toothache, he is checked by the village midwi-

fe or bought medicine at the nearest pharmacy. Regarding the habit of brushing teeth, mothers said they brush their teeth twice a day (morning and evening), with an irregular frequency. Some of them find it difficult to get used to brushing their teeth, because children are sometimes lazy about brushing their teeth. When using a toothbrush or toothpaste, they don't know what type of toothpaste is used to prevent caries. The most important thing is that it is not bitter and is what they usually see in various advertisements on television. Prevention is to prohibit children from consuming foods made from chocolate.

According to Sari, et al in Delila (2021) stated that mother's knowledge regarding dental and oral hygiene will ensure dental health in children in the future. Where teeth start to grow, parents, especially mothers, must know how to care for their children's teeth and be able to educate children on how to care for their teeth properly and correctly. Parents' concerns regarding dental problems must be taken seriously, even when the child has just had milk teeth. Because damage to milk teeth or tooth decay that occurs will affect the child's permanent teeth. In connection with this theory, conditions in the field show that there are many cases related to dental caries in children, as in the data presented above, almost 50% experience dental problems. Meanwhile, in efforts to prevent this problem, whether parents are maximizing their efforts both personally and by involving health workers. Apart from that, with regard to examinations, do parents (mothers) only rely on examinations by community health center officers who carry out counseling and examinations at school institutions?

Referring to existing problems, the researcher has a research idea related to children's dental health problems, which research is entitled "The Relationship between Mother's Knowledge about Dental Caries and Mother's Behavior in Preventing Dental Caries in Children (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute)".

## METHOD

This research is a type of quantitative research with The research approach used is cross sectional, where this approach emphasizes measuring the dependent and independent variables carried out at the same time. The research design is correlational, this design is useful for finding out the relationship between one variable and other variables. According to Sukardi (2011), what is meant by correlation research is research which involves actions to collect data, whether there is

a relationship between one variable and another variable. In presenting the data, this research is supported by descriptive explanations or explanations. This is used to make it easier to understand the analysis results. According to Azwar (2013), quantitative research is research whose data is in the form of numbers (numerical) and processed using statistical methods.

The population in this study involved mothers who had children attending PAUD institutions in Sojomerto Village. Sugiyono (2009) states that a sample is part of the number and characteristics that exist and are possessed by the population. Where the population consists of KB Harapan Bunda numbering 75, PAUD Tunas Athfal numbering 48, and TK NU Muslimat numbering 33 so the total population is 156 mothers. This research used a simple random sampling technique in which the research sample was taken at simple random, the research sample consisted of 61 mothers. Kerlinger (2006) explains that simple random sampling technique is a method used to draw from the population in a certain way so that each member of the population has the same opportunity to be selected or taken. In collecting data using a tool in the form of a questionnaire which was filled out by respondents, data analysis in this study used the Spearman Rank Test to determine whether there was a relationship between the two variables.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

KB Harapan Bunda is the first research location located in Jumbleng Hamlet, RT 001/RW 004, Sojomerto, Gemuh District, Kendal Regency. The school area is located in a village with easy road access. Facilities include classrooms, principal's office, bathrooms, as well as the arrangement of the school environment which tends to have a natural feel. There are 4 teaching staff at KB Harapan Bunda, with a total of 80 students.

TK Muslimat NU 03 is the second research location located in Sojomerto Krajan RT 003/RW 03, Sojomerto Village, Gemuh District, Kendal Regency. The school area is strategically located close to the village alley road. Precisely at the end of the village alley, there are 2 teaching staff who teach at the Muslimat NU 03 Kindergarten with a total of 75 students. Facilities include 2 classrooms, principal's room, bathroom, playground.

PAUD Tunas Athfal is the third research location located in Dukuh Karanghang, Sojomerto Village, Gemuh District, Kendal Regency. The school area is located between residential areas,

is strategically located and very easy to reach. PAUD Tunas Athfal has 4 teaching staff, with a total of 48 students. There are several facilities at this school, including 2 classrooms, teacher's room, bathroom, playground.

### Research subject

This research was conducted at three Early Childhood Education institutions in Sojomerto Village. The subjects of this research are the mothers of students who attend schools in these 3 institutions. The research subjects consisted of 61 mothers. The following are the characteristics of research subjects.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Respondents (Mothers) Based on Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20 – 34 years	26	42.6 %
35 – 49 years old	34	55.7 %
>49 years	1	1.6 %
Total	61	100%

**Table 2.** Characteristics of Respondents (Mothers) Based on Occupation

Work	Frequency	Percentage
IRT	35	57.4 %
Farmer	28	29.5 %
Private	8	13.1 %
Total	61	100%

**Table 3.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Education

Education	Frequency	Percentage
elementary school	16	26.2 %
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	38	62.3 %
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	7	11.5 %
Total	61	100%

*Normality Test Results*

## One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

			Unstandardized Residuals
N			30
Normal Parameters, b	Mean		.0000000
	Std. Deviation		36.76982172
	Absolute		.174
Most Extreme Differences	Positive		.103
	Negative		-.174
Statistical Tests			.174
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)			.021c

Based on the One Sample Kolmogrov-Smirnov normality test table with Asymp values. Sig. (2-tailed), it can be seen that the significance value of the variable maternal knowledge about dental caries (X) and the significance value of the variable maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children (Y) is 0.021. This means that the normality test value is less than 0.05, thus the mother's knowledge variable about dental caries (X) and the significance value of the mother's behavior variable in preventing dental caries in children (Y) are not normally distributed. So in categorization you can use the median value and in bivariate data analysis use the non-parametric correlation test, namely the Spearman Rank correlation test.

**Univariate Test Analysis***1. Univariate Analysis of Maternal Knowledge Variables About Dental Caries***Table 4.** Frequency Distribution of Mother's Knowledge about Dental Caries

Answer Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Knowledge Category
< 55%	21	34.4 %	Low
56% - 75%	17	27.9 %	Currently
>76%	23	37.7 %	Tall

Source: Research data processed in 2022

Based on the table above, the frequency distribution of mothers' knowledge about dental caries can be seen that there are 21 (34.4%) people who fall into the low knowledge category, 17 (27.9%) have the medium knowledge category, and 23 people (37.7%) falls into the high

knowledge category. The average value of the mother's knowledge score about dental caries is 22.36, where the total score is in the score range of 18-25. This means that the mother's knowledge about dental caries is in the medium category.

*2. Univariate analysis of maternal behavior variables in preventing dental caries in children***Table 5.** Frequency Distribution of Maternal Behavior in Preventing Dental Caries in Children

Answer Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Behavior Category
$X < 96$	16	26.2%	Not good
$96 \leq X \leq 120$	21	34.4 %	Pretty good
$X > 120$	24	39.3%	Good

Source: Research data processed in 2022

Based on the table above, the frequency distribution regarding maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children, the results showed that 16 people or 26.2% had the poor prevention behavior category, 21 people or 34.4% were in the fairly good prevention behavior category, and in the good prevention category there were 24 people, a percentage of 39.3%. The average score of maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children is 108.49, where the total score is in the score range  $96 \leq X \leq 120$ . This means that the mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children is in the fairly good category.

*Bivariate Analysis*

*Relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children*

**Table 6.** SPSS Correlation X and Y Test Results

		Correlations	
		X	Y
Spearman's rho	X	Correlation Co-efficient	1,000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.585**
		N	61
	Y	Correlation Co-efficient	.585**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	1,000
		N	61

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Based on the results of correlation analysis using the Spearman Rank test with the help of SPSS version 25, the r-calculation result was 0.585, so this shows a relationship in the medium

category based on the correlation coefficient value. Meanwhile, the significance value in this study shows the number 0.000. Which means the P value is less than 0.005. The coefficient value shows that the relationship between the two variables is positive. Thus, it can be concluded that the higher the mother's knowledge about dental caries, the higher the mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children.

From the calculations that have been carried out, the results obtained are that  $H_a$  which reads "There is a positive and significant relationship between mother's knowledge about dental caries and mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute) is accepted. According to Sugiono (2017), the interpretation of the level of relationship based on the magnitude of the correlation coefficient can be seen in the guidelines below:

**Table 7.** Guidelines for interpreting correlation coefficients

Coefficient Interval	Relationship Level
0.000-0.199	Very low
.200-.399	Low
.400-.599	Currently
.600-.799	Strong
0,800-1,000	Very strong

Judging from the table above, it can be interpreted that the relationship between mother's knowledge about dental caries and mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute) has a moderate level of relationship with a correlation coefficient value of 0.585, where  $H_a$  is accepted and  $H_o$  rejected.

This research shows that there is a significant relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute). This interpretation is based on the results of the Spearman Rank test with the help of SPSS version 25, which shows the results with a sig value. (2-tiled) 0.000 which is less than 0.005. It can be concluded that  $H_a$  is accepted and  $H_o$  is rejected, where  $H_a$  reads "There is a relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children

(Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute)".

Meanwhile, based on the strength of the relationship between the two variables, the results of the Spearman Rank test show that there is a positive relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute). A positive relationship can result from a value of  $r_{count}$  that is greater than  $r_{table}$ . The calculated  $r$  value is 0.565 which is between the interval 0.400-0.599, meaning that the relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children shows the medium category. Apart from that, the  $r_{count}$  is positive, this shows that if there is an increase in maternal knowledge about dental caries (variable  $x$ ) this will be followed by an increase in maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children (variable  $Y$ ). On the other hand, if there is a decrease in maternal knowledge about dental caries, this will also be followed by a decrease in maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children. Where the close relationship between the two variables shows that the category is being seen from the correlation coefficient value.

From these data it can be seen that there are respondents who have low knowledge but have quite good behavior and are good at preventing dental caries in children. According to researchers, this is because the availability of information regarding dental caries has not been fully conveyed to respondents. However, respondents' awareness of the importance of dental health encourages them to take preventive measures or take action to maintain dental health. Apart from that, support from people around also influences the mother's behavior in preventing dental caries. On the other hand, there were respondents who had high knowledge but their behavior in preventing dental caries was not good or quite good. According to respondents, this is because it is difficult for mothers to get their children used to maintaining healthy teeth. Where children do not want to carry out the habit of brushing their teeth, they often throw tantrums when they are prohibited from consuming foods that trigger dental caries. This results in a lack of dental caries prevention behavior carried out by mothers. As explained by Gunarsa (2000), a mother is compared to the heart of her family, where the heart is a very important center in human life. When the heart stops beating, it will result in the cessation of all other organ functions, in other words a person cannot continue living. From this parable it can

be concluded that a mother's position is central in the family and is very important for the continuity of a family, another important thing is from the birth of her child.

The results of this study are in line with previous research by Asri Atyanta, et al in the Health Journal regarding the relationship between the level of maternal knowledge about dental caries and the mother's role in preventing dental caries in children with mental retardation (Study of parents of children with mental retardation SLB Negeri Semarang). The results showed that there was a relationship between the two variables studied. Where the results of this research show that based on multiple linear tests the results were 0.040 and 0.007. Which means there is a significant relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and the mother's role in preventing dental caries in children with mental retardation.

Another study in the Health Journal conducted by Ami Angela (2005) regarding primary prevention of dental caries with very high risk showed that in children under 5 years of age, efforts were made to primary prevent dental caries. Where the mother's knowledge in improving prevention such as maintaining the child's oral hygiene, providing a good diet, and other protective measures can become a habit that the mother carries out with her child. So that it becomes a habit that children will carry out independently at a later age. The best preventive measure to take is primary prevention by modifying children's habits and protecting their teeth.

## CONCLUSION

The results of the research entitled The Relationship between Mother's Knowledge about Dental Caries and Mother's Behavior in Preventing Dental Caries in Children (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute) are based on the results of data analysis, hypothesis testing and research discussion, so it can be concluded that mother's knowledge about dental caries has The average score is 22.36 where the total score is in the score range 18-25. This means that the mother's knowledge about dental caries is in the medium category. Meanwhile, maternal behavior in preventing dental caries has an average score of 108.49, where the total score is in the score range  $96 \leq X \leq 120$ . This means that the mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children is in the quite good category. The results of analysis tests using Spearman's Rank showed that there was a significant relationship between maternal

knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing children's dental caries (Research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD Institute). With a P Value of 0.000, this means that the P Value  $< 0.005$ , which means  $H_a$  is accepted and  $H_o$  is rejected. Where  $H_a$  reads "There is a relationship between maternal knowledge about dental caries and maternal behavior in preventing dental caries in children (research at the Sojomerto Village PAUD institution)". Regarding the level of closeness of the relationship between the two variables, the correlation coefficient value shows 0.565, which is between the 0.400-0.599 interval in the medium category. Apart from that, these two research variables show a positive relationship with a value of  $r_{count} > r_{table}$ . This means that if the mother's knowledge about dental caries increases, the mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children will increase. Conversely, if the mother's knowledge about dental caries decreases, the mother's behavior in preventing dental caries in children will decrease.

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