



## The Role of Self-Practice Midwife on Maternal Health Services for The Period of The Covid-19 Pandemic in Palu City

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### Abstract

The objective of this study was to know the relationship among the role of self-practice midwife on maternal health services based on the Antenatal Care variable, contraception method, and maternity services on Covid-19 pandemic period in Palu city. This study used cross sectional design method. The population on this study was all self-practice midwives in Palu city as much as 57 and the sample was 56. The research variables consist of the characteristics of the respondents (age, education), The Role of Independent Practice Midwives (serve, not serve), Antenatal Care (Good, Not Good), Contraceptive (Good, Not Good), Maternity Mother ((Good, Not Good). This study was used Chi-square test with the number of significance was  $p < 0,05$ . The result of this study showed that there was relation between self-practice midwife on ANC ( $p = 0,015$ ) service, there was relation between self-practice midwife on contraception service ( $p = 0,003$ ), there was relation between self-practice midwife on maternity ( $p = 0,006$ ). There were relations among self-practice midwife with Antenatal Care, contraception method, and maternity services on Covid-19 pandemic period in Palu city.

**Keywords:** Self Practice, Midwife, ANC, Contraception, Maternity

### Key Messages:

- Comprehensive outreach to midwives who provide services related to guidelines or protocols for maternal and child health services during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as supervising the implementation of the protocol for pregnant women services.

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### 1. Introduction

The efforts to improve welfare of mothers and children have been carried out, one of which is the achievement of Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) program, where the midwife placed as one of the health workers who play the role to achieve optimality and quality public health status with other health workers (1). On other side, the high MMR and IMR are also still unresolved problems, therefore the new strategy is needed to improve midwifery services quality. One of which is strengthening their roles and function (2). The maternal mortality rate (MMR) in central Sulawesi has fluctuated over the last 5 years from 208/100.000 live births to 179/100.000 in 2019. The number of maternal deaths in central Sulawesi in 2019 was 97 cases, the highest cases was in Donggala (17 cases) and the lowest was in Poso (2 cases), meanwhile the number of maternal deaths in

Palu city from 2018 was 4 cases and in 2019 there was an increase of 8 cases (3). The factors that affect MMR include socioeconomic condition, mother health status during pregnancy, and the availability and use of health care facilities including perinatal and obstetric services (4).

The lack of a role of health workers in this case is, the less of midwife to monitor mothers' condition that might got the case of MMR (5). On the other hand, the number of patients of Covid-19 in Palu city is always increased. This case absolutely become a challenge for midwives in providing health services to patients, thus it is necessary to follow and apply special health protocol for the health of midwives. Midwives are one of the health workers as the front line in maternal and children health services, family planning and reproductive health. The spread of cases of Corona virus (Covid-19) is very fast both in the world and Indonesia. Therefore, to be able to carry out the responsibilities, midwives need to be given the guidance of maternity service accordance with guidelines issued by Ministry of Health of the Republic Indonesia (6).

In this Covid-19 pandemic situation, there are many restrictions on almost all routine services, including maternal and neonatal services. For example, pregnant women are reluctant to go to the public health centre or other health care facilities because of fear of being infected, there are advice for postponing pregnancy check-ups, and also there are unpreparedness of services in terms of personnel and infrastructure including personal protective equipment (2).

The objective of this study was to know the relationship among the role of self-practice midwife on maternal health services based on Antenatal Care variable, contraception method, and maternity services on Covid-19 pandemic period in Palu city

## 2. Methods

This study is quantitative research with a *cross-sectional* design. This study will be conducted at the independent midwives practice location in Palu city on June to August 2021. The population on this study is all the independent practice midwives in Palu city as much 57. In the calculation of the sample size using the *slovin* formula, it was obtained with a total of 56 samples. The research variables consist of the characteristics of the respondents (age, education), The Role of Independent Practice Midwives (serve, not serve), Antenatal Care (Good, Not Good), Contraceptive (Good, Not Good), Maternity Mother ((Good, Not Good ). Analysis of quantitative results with descriptive and inferential statistical test. This study used Chi-square with a significance level of  $p < 0,05$ .

## 3. Results

Table 1 show that mostly contains 28.6% of respondents aged 22-28 years and 36-42 years, then there are 1.8% of respondents aged 57-63 years. Respondents have a diploma with the percentage of 89.3% and respondents who have bachelor's education are 10.7%.

**Table 1 Characteristics of Respondent**

Characteristics	n	%
<b>Age</b>		
22-28	16	28,6
29-35	5	8,9
36-42	16	28,6
43-49	13	23,2
50-56	5	8,9
57-63	1	1,8
<b>Education</b>		
Diploma	50	89,3
Bachelor	6	10,7
Total	56	100

Table 2 shows that, there are significant relation between independent practice midwives' role and ANC services with  $p\text{-value} = 0.015$ . There is significant relation between independent practice midwives' role and

contraception services with  $p$ -value= 0.003. Further, there is significant relation between independent practice midwives' role and maternity mother services with  $p$ -value= 0.006

**Table 2 The Analysis of Midwives' role on maternal and child services (ANC, Contraceptive, dan Maternity Mother) on the Pandemic Covid-19 period in Palu City.**

Variable	The Role of Independent Practice Midwives		95% CI	P Value
	Serve	Not Serve		
<b>Antenatal Care</b>				
Good	19	0	1.749-3.994	0,015
Not Good	14	23		
Total	56	100		
<b>Contraceptive</b>				
Good	15	0	1.612-3.219	0,003
Not Good	18	23		
Total	56	100		
<b>Maternity Mother</b>				
Good	22	0	1.901-5.025	0,006
Not Good	11	23		
Total	56	100		

#### 4. Discussion

Nowadays' situation requires people in Indonesia to always comply and not ignore health protocols as a form of efforts to protect and prevent the Covid-19 Pandemic, including health workers such as midwives (5). Independent practice midwives is a first-level health facility that plays a role in providing health services to patients, including antenatal care (ANC), contraceptive services, childbirth, postpartum maternal health services as well as providing referrals to patients who need advanced medical services (7).

Based on the result of this study, there is a relationship between the role of independent practice midwives and antenatal care services during the Covid-19 pandemic in Palu city with  $p$ -value=0.015. This shows that, respondents who have a good role in the services of pregnant woman (ANC) during the Covid-19 pandemic are serving patient according to procedures, and providing counselling at every visit. Respondents have also received knowledge about ANC services during the pandemic before providing services to pregnant women, facilitating pregnant woman through social media, receiving contracts/appointment to schedule services for pregnant woman through social media, and implementing health protocols at midwife's practices. This study in line with research conducted in west Sumatra which is showed that midwives had high knowledge and played a good role in the service of pregnant women in antenatal care (ANC) during the Covid-19 Pandemic (1). The level of knowledge, mothers' attitude, healthcare, and health workers' support significantly indicated the positive outcome of ANC visits during the COVID-19 pandemic (8).

The result of this study also showed that, there are relation between the role of independent practice midwives with contraceptive service during the Covid-19 pandemic in Palu city with  $p$ -value=0.003. This in line with community service which shows that midwives provide information to women of childbearing age and make a major contribution to increasing the number of Long Term Contraceptive Methods family planning participants during the Covid-19 Pandemic (9). The problem in the current Covid-19 Pandemic situation is family planning service where socialization by family planning officers (FPO) and cadres is limited due to physical and social distancing, implementing of working from home with limited funds (10). During covid-19 pandemic, there was a change in the behaviour of couples of childbearing age which reduced visits to health facilities. All activities are gathered at home both work school, and other activities that would result in the behaviour of couples of childbearing age. The Covid-19 Pndemic has changed the lifestyle of almost every people, the negative impact that harms which affect a patterns of contraceptive use and interfere with the contributions of drugs and contraceptive (11), (12).

This study also shows the results that there is a relation between maternity services and independent practice midwives during the Covid-19 pandemic in Palu city with  $p\text{-value} = 0.006$ . Independent practice midwives play a good role in providing maternity services in the practice place by continuing to carry out maternity assistance according SOPs and still comply with the established health protocols. This study is in line with research conducted by independent practice midwives in Buleleng district, who showed that midwives performed maternity services well, referring to service standards during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to standards guidelines from Ministry of Health (13). This is also in accordance with the guidelines for pregnant, Postpartum, Maternity, and New Babies in the pandemic period by Ministry of Health of Republic Indonesia in 2020 which states that in carry out maternity services, the principles of Covid-19 prevention must be carried out, wearing level 2 PPE, and the place of maternity assistance is also determined based on the status of the mother who confirmed to have Covid-19 or not complication disease (14). Therefore, to be able to continue to carry out their role, midwives need to be provided with maternity assistance guidelines in accordance with guidelines issued by Ministry of Health of Republic Indonesia. The guide explains that during the Covid-19 pandemic, mother still give birth in health care facilities (15). The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the maternal-child care regulation incorporated in the health care system, includes procedure adaptation, limitations to contact with the health facilities, and technology improvement creating telemedicine (8). Midwives can improve services by communicating information and education and counseling by utilizing online media by applying service protocols according to service standards in the Covid-19 era (16).

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the result of this study, it can be concluded that there were 33 independent practice midwives who played a good role in maternal and child health services during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Palu city. Then there is a significant relationship between the role of independent practice midwives on ANC (Antenatal Care) service, contraceptive services, and maternity services, during the Covid-19 pandemic in Palu city. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the provision of comprehensive socialization to midwives who provide services regarding guidelines or protocols for maternal and child health services during the Covid-19 pandemic and supervise the implementation of service protocols for pregnant women.

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