

**DENTAL CARIES PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR
OF MOTHERS WITH PRESCHOOL CHILDREN
IN MARTAPURA, BANJAR DISTRICT, INDONESIA**



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DENTAL CARIES PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR OF MOTHERS WITH PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN MARTAPURA, BANJAR DISTRICT, INDONESIA.**RAHIMAYANTI 5338130 ADPM / M****M.P.H.M.****THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: BOONYONG KEIWKARNKA, Dr.P.H.,
JUTATIP SILLABUTRA, Ph.D.****ABSTRACT**

Dental caries is a serious problem worldwide, particularly in developing countries such as Indonesia. Mothers are often the major influence on their children's health, which makes them key players in the prevention of this disease. This cross-sectional descriptive study aimed to identify the factors associated with dental caries preventive behavior of mothers with preschool children in Martapura, Banjar district, Indonesia.

Face-to-face interviews with 300 mothers of preschool children were conducted to assess their socio-demographic factors, knowledge and perception towards dental caries, sources of information, and social supports, which were considered related to their dental caries preventive behavior for their young children. Data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, and Chi-square test was performed to find associations between the preventive behavior and those influencing factors.

More than half of the mothers had poor preventive behavior, 65.67 percent of them were 25 to 35 years old, and 48 percent of them had only 1 child. Almost half of them finished high school, and 69.33 percent of them were housewives with an average monthly family income was 2,759,933 rupiahs (9570.49 baht). The main media source of information about dental caries for the respondents was television; meanwhile information from human sources was mainly from health centre personnel and family members. 78.67 percent of them had poor levels of social support, which they received mainly from their husbands. Maternal age, education, and occupation were factors which were found to have a significant association with mothers' preventive behavior on their dietary habits aspect. Social support was also found to have significant association with mothers' preventive behavior on their regular dental check ups aspect.

The role of the key persons, such as family members particularly husbands, health center personnel, and school teachers, become more important, not only as the sources of health information, but also as part of the mothers' social support. Therefore, they need to be encouraged to meet the responsibility to achieve better dental health for young children. Meanwhile, the importance of sources of information on mothers' preventive behavior need to be reassessed, and strategies need to be developed to improve the levels of media health literacy within the community, and for mothers in particular, so that health information can be appropriately filtered, absorbed, and applied.

**KEY WORDS: DENTAL CARIES / PRESCHOOL CHILDREN / MOTHERS /
PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR**

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