

## **ABSTRACT 5**

### **ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY CARE OF THE NEWBORN AMONG THE WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS, DISTRICT CENTRAL MALUKU, MALUKU PROVINCE, INDONESIA**

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In Indonesia the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has substantially decreased especially among those who are 1 to 12 months old. Almost half of the mortality took place during the neonatal period in which the neonatal mortality rate is relatively constant. To prevent the hypothermia traditionally the community care of the low birth weight babies (LBWB) was using the hot water bottle or kerosene lamp. To replace this method WHO currently recommends the kangaroo care mothers in which there is direct contact between the mothers and the newborn to prevent hypothermia. This method is one of the appropriate technologies which is of low cost and has been proven to increase the survival of the LBWB in the developing countries.

The implementation of KCM (Skin-to-Skin-Contact) has a potential cultural barrier. The general objective of this operational research is to reduce the IMR especially during the neonatal period by using the KCM. The specific objectives of this study were gathering the baseline data through the following: (1) assessing habits and practices during pregnancy and delivery including care of the normal newborn; (2) identifying the habits and practices on the care of the LBWB; (3) identifying local terms which are similar to the KCM, and (4) developing strategy for socializing the KCM at the selected location.

Location of the study were three Puskesmas (Public Health Centers) at the Gugus Pulau Seram Barat namely Kairatu, Piru and Taniwel. The design of the study was a cross sectional study. An ethnographic assessment using qualitative technique (in-depth interview and focus group discussions) were used. Among the pregnant women there are still beliefs and taboos which are not conducive to healthy life styles. It is likely there is a unique traditional care for postpartum women and squatting position in delivery. Usually the normal newborn baby was bathed and was cared for using traditional methods namely "diasar" and "dirau (wiping the newborn baby with a cloth which has been heated with charcoal). The majority of the pregnant women had practiced habits which are conducive to the care of the LBWB babies. In socializing the KCM among the women at the Gugus Pulau Seram Barat a local term: "Metoda – Kussu" was used which is a name that originated from local animal which has a pocket to carry its offspring. For the next planned intervention adapted flip charts have been pretested and revised with the local dialect and generally were both accepted and understood by the users.