

A SURVEY OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN'S MATERNAL KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES ABOUT OBESE IN THE WORKING AREA OF THE TALANG BANJAR HEALTH CENTER, JAMBI CITY

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Disubmit: 22 April 2024

Diterima: 20 Juni 2024

Diterbitkan: 01 Juli 2024

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.33024/mahesa.v4i7.14922>

ABSTRACT

The global incidence of childhood obesity is one of the main public health issues. Indonesia is one of the nations where overweight and obesity rates are rising the fastest, and the country also suffers from severe triple burden malnutrition (TBM). Children who are obese may experience detrimental impacts to their physical and mental health. Parents' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors—especially those of mothers—have a big influence on how effectively kids manage their weight. Purpose to ascertain the nature of mothers' attitudes and knowledge on obesity in school-age children in the Talang Banjar Health Center's working area in Jambi City. This kind of research was carried out in January 2024 in the Talang Banjar Health Center Working Area, Jambi City, using a cross-sectional design and quantitative analysis. The mothers with school-age children comprise the researcher's population. With the use of a straightforward random sampling technique, the study's sample size was 138. Questionnaires on knowledge and attitudes were the instruments utilized. use SPSS software for data analysis. Sixty-one percent of the respondents were in the late adult (36-45 year) age range. 75.4 percent of respondents have completed high school, MAN, or SMK, and 72.5 percent of respondents are housewives. These are the categories with the most education levels among respondents. The level of maternal knowledge about obesity in school-age children is good knowledge (25.4%), sufficient knowledge (33.3%), lack of knowledge (41.3%), and most of the maternal attitude categories have a negative attitude category (54.3%). The results of this study demonstrate that respondents' attitudes and understanding on childhood obesity are lacking.

Keywords: Child Obesity, Maternal Knowledge, Maternal Attitude

INTRODUCTION

The global incidence of childhood obesity is one of the main public health issues (Adom et al., 2019). In Europe, childhood obesity rates range from 9 to 43% (Rito et al., 2019). The World Obesity Federation projected in 2019 that there will be 254 million obese children and adolescents in 2030 and

206 million in 2025 (Lobstein & Brinsden, 2019). By 2030, it's predicted that 42 countries would produce over a million obese children, with China, India, the US, Indonesia, and Brazil at the top of the list (Jebeile et al., 2022).

Indonesia is one of the nations where overweight and obesity rates

are rising the fastest, and the country also suffers from severe triple burden malnutrition (TBM) (UNICEF, 2022) (Popkin et al., 2020). In Indonesia, the number of school-age children and adolescents who suffer from obesity is rising. In 2018, approximately 20% of school children (7.6 million children) and 14.8% of adolescents (3.3 million adolescents) were overweight or obese. (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2021b : Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2022).

Dinas Kesehatan Kota Jambi, (2019) reported that the Talang Banjar Health Center had the highest number of children with overweight and obese nutritional status in 2019, namely 121 children. In 2020 and 2021, the highest prevalence of overweight and obese nutritional status was still recorded at the Talang Banjar Health Center, with 90 and 33 children respectively.

The health impacts associated with childhood obesity are increased respiratory diseases such as asthma, sleep apnea, cardiovascular disease, lower fitness levels, social discrimination such as bullying, and exclusion that can result in lower self-esteem, lower quality of life, and lower academic achievement. Type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia—diseases that were formerly mostly associated with adults—are also prevalent in youngsters (Kemenkes RI, 2022 : UNICEF, 2022).

The knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of parents—particularly mothers—have a significant impact on how well their children control their weight. Mothers are the major caregivers for children, especially during the formative years, and their views on their health have an impact on the physical activity and nutritional status of their offspring (Hossain et al., 2019). The type, quantity, and quality of food that

mothers provide their children depends on a variety of social, economic, and personal circumstances. Mothers have a responsibility to provide sanitary, nutritious, and healthful meals for their children (Lim et al., 2020) ; Straughan & Xu, 2022 ; Scaglioni et al., 2018).

Puskesmas as primary health care providers have a strategic role in taking a preventive approach to childhood obesity. But as the primary caretakers of the family's children, women's attitudes and understanding are crucial to the success of these preventive measures. Mothers have a significant impact on their children's nutrition and exercise habits, which both have an impact on the likelihood that their children will become obese (Ling & Gebremariam, 2023).

Previous research has demonstrated a substantial correlation between the frequency of childhood obesity and mothers' attitudes regarding their children's food and physical activity as well as their understanding of childhood obesity. To prevent childhood obesity, moms' knowledge and practice of how to manage their children's diet and physical activity differ, though (Kaufman et al., 2020).

The aim of this research is to find out how working-class moms in Jambi City's Talang Banjar Health Center's area perceive obesity in school-age children. By identifying and closing the knowledge gap between practice and knowledge in terms of controlling children's diet and physical activity, this study emphasizes the importance of maternal knowledge and attitudes as essential elements in efforts to prevent childhood obesity in the Puskesmas working region.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview Knowledge

Sensing an item causes one to know, and knowing is the result of knowing. Humans perceive the world through five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. The majority of human information is gathered via sight and hearing. Without information, a person lacks the foundation necessary to decide how to proceed with challenges and make decisions. There are six stages of knowledge that make up cognitive: knowing, understanding, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation (MRL et al., 2019).

Attitude

Attitude, as a psychological concept, is a complex and multifaceted construct that includes evaluations, beliefs, and feelings toward objects, people, or events. It is a comparatively stable arrangement of attitudes, sentiments, and behavioral inclinations toward things, people, occasions, or symbols that have social significance. Attitudes can have a significant impact on behavior and how people behave in different contexts. They are frequently the outcome of experiences or upbringing. Though opinions are enduring, they are also malleable (Repedro & Diego, 2021).

The three primary domains of attitude components are typically categorized as follows: cognitive, emotional, and behavioral. These elements work together and have an impact on one another to provide a comprehensive picture of a person's perspective on a given thing, person, problem, or circumstance (Repedro & Diego, 2021).

Obesity

A person who is obese has excess body fat, which puts them at risk for health problems. The

indicator used to determine whether someone is obese is by calculating the Body Mass Index (BMI) which has a close correlation with body fat (Direktorat Jenderal Pencegahan dan Pengendalian Penyakit (P2P) Kementerian Kesehatan, 2021).

Children who are overweight and in school face a complex issue that is influenced by numerous factors. Research has identified some of the main causes that contribute to the obesity epidemic among children namely diet, physical activity level, parental factors, school environment socioeconomic environment, media influence and genetic factors (Lehmann et al., 2020 ; (Noh & Min, 2020 ; Nogueira-de-Almeida et al., 2024 ; Repedro & Diego, 2021).

The significance and contribution of parental knowledge and attitudes to obesity in school-aged children is profound and multifaceted. Parents have a significant impact on their child's food preferences, amount of physical activity, and overall manner of life because they are the child's primary caregivers and role models.

Their attitudes towards obesity and its prevention are crucial in determining their children's health impact (Woods & Nies, 2020).

Parents' knowledge and attitudes are critical in the prevention of obesity in school-aged children. By fostering positive attitudes towards obesity prevention and understanding the causes and consequences of obesity, parents can contribute significantly to the health and well-being of their children. This underscores the need for interventions that improve parental knowledge and attitudes towards obesity, thereby encouraging healthier lifestyle choices among children (Woods & Nies, 2020).

RESEARCH METHODS

This kind of research was carried out in January 2024 in the Talang Banjar Health Center Work Area, Jambi City, using a cross-sectional design and quantitative analysis. All of the moms in the research had children who were in school. With the use of a straightforward random sampling technique, the study's sample size was 138.

The instrument used was a knowledge questionnaire (Handi & Wua, 2018) and attitudes from previous researchers (Campos Rivera & Sotelo Quiñonez, 2019). The researcher made modifications to several questionnaire questions, so the researcher conducted a validity and reliability test again and found that all questionnaire items on maternal knowledge and attitudes were valid and reliable. The maternal knowledge and attitude questionnaire obtained an r value > 0.361 with a Cronbach alpha value of 0.921 for the knowledge questionnaire and 0.820 for the attitude questionnaire. The instrument was used to identify mothers' knowledge and attitudes about obesity in school-age children.

There were three components to the instrument. Section 1 (triumphal order) The sociodemographic information included age, education level and employment status. Part 2 was knowledge about school-age childhood obesity using a true and false answer Guttman scale (25 items).

It was established that there are three types of knowledge: bad, moderate, and good. Attitudes were divided into two categories: positive and negative attitudes.

Section 3 consists of 11 items on maternal attitudes about obesity in school-age children. This instrument uses a 4-point Likert scale consisting of Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. Attitudes are divided into two categories: positive attitudes and negative attitudes.

The Andalas University Faculty of Nursing's Ethics Committee granted ethical approval (No.190.laietik/KEPKFKEPUNAND). Version 26 of the SPSS software was used to analyze the data. The analysis included descriptive statistical tests such as frequency distribution and percentages.

RESULT

Table 1. presents the characteristics of the respondents about childhood obesity

Respondent Characteristics	Frequency (n=138)	Percentage (%)
Age:		
Late Teens (ages 17 to 25)	1	0,7
Early Adulthood (ages 26 to 35)	38	27,5
Late Adulthood (ages 36 to 45)	83	60,1
Early Elderly (ages 46 to 55)	16	11,6
Education Level		
Graduated from high school	104	75,4
College Graduate	34	24,6
Employment Status		
Working Mothers	38	27,5
Housewife	100	72,5

According to Table 1, 60.1% of respondents are in the late adult (36-45 years old) age range. 75.4% of respondents had an education level

that falls into the SMA, MAN, or SMK graduate group, and 72.5% of respondents are housewives.

Table 2. Knowledge level of mothers about obesity in school-age children

Knowledge Level	Frequency (n=138)	Percentage (%)
Good	35	25,4
Simply	46	33,3
Less	57	41,3

Table 2 shows how much moms know about obesity in school-age children. Of those surveyed, the

majority (41.3%) don't know anything.

Table 3. Maternal Attitudes about Obesity in School-Age Children

Attitudes Level	Frekuensi (n=138)	Persentase (%)
Positive	63	45,3
Negative	75	54,3

Based on table 3, the majority of maternal attitude categories have

negative attitude categories (54.3%).

DISCUSSION

Children's nutritional condition and obesity-prevention activity are greatly influenced by their mothers' attitudes and knowledge regarding obesity. To effectively counteract the rising trend of childhood overweight, it is essential to comprehend these mothers' thoughts and behaviors (Straczek et al., 2021).

Mothers' attitudes and understanding on obesity in school-age children are influenced by a number of factors. These variables include the child's age and the mother's nutritional awareness in addition to the mother's age, income, education, and occupation. The bulk of respondents—60.1%—were in the late adult (36-45) age range, according to the study's findings. 75.4% of respondents had an education level that falls into the SMA, MAN, or SMK graduation category, while 72.5% of

respondents are housewives. Moms' attitudes and actions toward their children's weight can also be influenced by parental health information and stress levels (Aini & Chasanah, 2022 ; Straughan & Xu, 2022).

The majority of moms, or 57 (41.3%), fell into the category of not knowing anything about obesity in school-age children, according to the statistics. This is consistent with studies Hsu et al., (2022) in Taiwan found a lack of maternal knowledge about obesity in school-age children. Another study in India found that although most mothers knew that lack of physical activity caused childhood obesity, only 52.27% of participants knew the complications of obesity (Ramanathan et al., 2022).

Knowledge significantly influences health behavior. This influence can occur either directly or

indirectly. Direct influence occurs when individuals change their behavior based on the knowledge they acquire. Indirect influence occurs when knowledge leads to changes in attitudes or beliefs that further influence behavior (Rincón Uribe et al., 2021). Cognitive abilities possessed by individuals are the most important thing and have a great influence on a person's attitude to behavior (Malik & Marwaha, 2024).

According to study on maternal attitudes, 75 (54.3%) of the respondents had a negative opinion, which was the majority. The findings of this investigation are consistent with studies carried by Woods & Nies, (2020) moms' attitudes regarding obesity and children's nutritional behavior are related, as evidenced by the fact that some moms still have negative beliefs (Karimy et al., 2019).

Arunachalam & Kandasami, (2019) explained that obesity prevention requires effective intervention measures, and for such interventions to be successful, both mothers and children need to have favorable attitudes towards obesity and its prevention. This highlights the importance of addressing mothers' attitudes towards obesity in school-aged children, as their attitudes can significantly influence the effectiveness of obesity prevention strategies.

According to study findings, moms have a significant influence on how their kids behave when it comes to their health (knowledge, attitudes and actions), and that their attitudes and behaviors may influence childhood obesity prevention (Straughan & Xu, 2022).

Obesity in children has a major effect on both mental and physical health. Severe health diseases such as diabetes, bronchial asthma, obstructive sleep apnea (OSA),

hypertension, hepatic stenosis, and cardiovascular issues can all be brought on by obesity (Balasundaram & Krishna, 2023). Furthermore, obese children have a higher chance of being obese into adolescence and maturity. Children are more likely to experience high blood pressure, stroke, osteoarthritis and other musculoskeletal illnesses, as well as several cancers, such as breast and colon cancer (Sanyaolu et al., 2019).

Maintaining normal nutritional status in school-age children is important to prevent obesity and improve overall health and well-being. Children can maintain a healthy weight and lower their risk of developing chronic diseases by eating a balanced diet that includes a range of healthful foods. Preventing childhood obesity is important for improving long-term health and well-being (Saavedra & Prentice, 2023).

The aforementioned results underscore the significance of implementing more comprehensive teaching programs to enhance mothers' comprehension and perspectives regarding the health consequences associated with childhood obesity. There has to be more emphasis placed on providing youngsters with comprehensive knowledge about the value of a balanced diet, exercise, and weight management.

CONCLUSIONS

The study's conclusion demonstrates that over half of the moms have unfavorable opinions and inadequate information regarding childhood obesity. Continued education and awareness is essential to improve mothers' knowledge and attitudes about obesity in school-age children.

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