



ATTITUDE OF PRIMIGRAVIDA MOTHERS TOWARD TETANUS TOXOID IMMUNIZATION

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
Background: Tetanus Toxoid (TT) is an acute and potentially fatal infectious disease caused by neurotoxin (tetanus spasmin) produced by <i>Clostridium tetani</i>. TT disease can be prevented through TT immunization administration to pregnant women during the first trimester or before 32 weeks of gestation. Objective: This study aimed to determine the attitude of primigravida mothers regarding TT immunization. Method: This observational descriptive study was conducted from September 21 to October 9, 2024. The population consisted of all primigravida mothers visiting TPMB Johana Widijati, Kauman Subdistrict, Tulungagung Regency, with a sample of 15 primigravida mothers selected through accidental sampling technique. Results: The majority of respondents (8 respondents, 53%) demonstrated unfavourable attitudes toward TT immunization. Conclusion: Unfavourable attitudes were associated with low education levels, age immaturity affecting decision-making capacity, insufficient information exposure, and limited access to information sources regarding TT immunization. Education level, age, information availability, and information sources represent contributing factors to unfavourable attitudes among primigravida mothers.	Primigravida Mother's Attitude, TT Immunization

INTRODUCTION

Tetanus toxoid vaccination is a process of providing immunity as an effort to prevent tetanus infection, thereby reducing infant mortality through TT vaccine administration to prospective brides and pregnant women, particularly primigravida mothers in the first trimester. The introduction of TT immunization began in 1984 and expanded rapidly around 1993, subsequently experiencing a decline while remaining relatively stable. The low implementation of TT immunization still has the potential to reach broader target coverage. Based on the Ministry of Health's Immunization Development Program (PPI), every primigravida mother must receive TT immunization to be protected from tetanus infection (Ministry of Health RI, 2019; Yaqin, 2024; IDAI, 2024; Ministry of Health RI, 2023).

Tetanus is an acute infectious disease characterized by muscle spasms caused by the neurotoxin tetanospasmin produced by *Clostridium tetani*. The bacteria typically enter the body through contaminated wounds, and in neonates, infection occurs through the umbilical cord stump. Neonatal Tetanus (NT) remains a significant cause of neonatal mortality in developing countries, with case fatality rates reaching 70-100% if untreated (Bizuneh & Mustofa, 2024). The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination as a public health priority, emphasizing the importance of TT immunization coverage among pregnant women (WHO Indonesia & Ministry of Health RI, 2024).

A preliminary survey conducted by the researcher identified 50 primigravida mothers, of whom only 29 (58%) had received TT immunization. One contributing factor to the low immunization rate was the insufficient attitude regarding TT immunization, consequently leading to increased TN disease incidence. Therefore, positive attitudes toward TT immunization must be cultivated among primigravida mothers. Attitude formation begins with knowledge components, perspectives, and beliefs about TT immunization, subsequently influencing primigravida mothers' inclination toward immunization behaviour. Attitudes are influenced by three factors: cognitive (knowledge), affective (emotional), and conative (behavioural) components (Wicaksono et al., 2022; WHO, 2024).

Failure to undergo TT immunization increases the likelihood of newborns developing Neonatal Tetanus. Beyond the low TT immunization coverage among pregnant women, participation rates affect neonatal mortality attributed to Neonatal Tetanus. Studies have demonstrated that maternal TT immunization significantly reduces neonatal tetanus incidence, with protective efficacy reaching 80-95% when administered appropriately during pregnancy (Surati et al., 2023).

Addressing this issue requires healthcare worker preparedness. Healthcare professionals play a crucial role in improving attitudes through health education, TT immunization campaign programmes, and ensuring primigravida mothers understand the importance of TT immunization to protect newborns from TN disease. This study contributes to the existing literature by providing local data on primigravida attitudes toward TT immunization in Tulungagung Regency, which can inform targeted interventions in similar settings.

METHOD

This observational descriptive study employed a cross-sectional design to describe the attitudes of primigravida mothers toward TT immunization. The research was conducted at TPMB Johana Widiyati, Amd. Keb, Kauman Subdistrict, Tulungagung Regency, from September 21 to October 9, 2024.

The study population comprised all primigravida mothers visiting TPMB Johana Widiyati during the study period. The sample included 15 primigravida mothers selected using accidental sampling technique, where respondents were recruited consecutively as they presented at the healthcare facility and met the inclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria included primigravida mothers (first pregnancy), willingness to participate, and ability to complete the questionnaire.

The independent variable in this study was the attitude level of primigravida mothers toward TT immunization. Attitude was measured using a structured questionnaire assessing cognitive, affective, and conative components related to TT immunization. Responses were categorized as favourable (positive attitude) or unfavourable (negative attitude).

Data collection included both general data (education, age, occupation, information exposure, and information sources) and specific data regarding attitudes toward TT immunization. Respondents were classified into education categories (low: elementary/middle school; high: high school/tertiary), age categories (20-25 years, 26-30 years, 31-35 years), and information exposure (ever received information/never received information).

Data were analyzed descriptively using frequency distributions and percentages to characterize respondent demographics and attitude distribution. Results are presented in tabular format with frequencies and percentages.

RESULT

Data collection was divided into two categories: general data (education, age, occupation, information, information sources) and specific data regarding respondents' attitudes toward TT immunization among primigravida mothers at TPMB Johana Widiyati, Amd. Keb, Kauman Subdistrict, Tulungagung Regency.

1. Data Umum

Characteristic	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Education	Low (Elementary/Middle School)	9	60.0
	High (High School/Tertiary)	6	40.0
Age	20-25 years	3	20.0
	26-30 years	8	53.3
	31-35 years	4	26.7
Information Exposure	Never received information	8	53.3
	Ever received information	7	46.7
Information Source (n=7)	Family/Friends	4	57.1
	Healthcare Workers	2	28.6
	Media (TV/Internet)	1	14.3

Source: Primary Data Source: Primary Data, 2024

Respondent Characteristics Based on Education: The majority of respondents (9 respondents, 60%) had low education levels (elementary or middle school).

Respondent Characteristics Based on Age: The majority of respondents (8 respondents, 53%) were aged 26-30 years.

Respondent Characteristics Based on Information Exposure: The majority of respondents (8 respondents, 53%) had never received information about TT immunization.

Respondent Characteristics Based on Information Sources: Among the 7 respondents who had received information, the majority (4 respondents, 57%) obtained information from family or friends.

2. Specific Data: Attitudes Toward TT Immunization

Table 2. Distribution of Primigravida Mothers' Attitudes Toward TT Immunization

No	Attitude Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Unfavourable	8	53.3
2	Favourable	7	46.7
Total		15	100

Source: Primary Data, 2024

The results demonstrate that the majority of respondents (8 respondents, 53%) exhibited unfavourable attitudes toward TT immunization, while 7 respondents (47%) demonstrated favourable attitudes.

CONCLUSION

Attitude represents a closed response to a stimulus or object, functioning as a predisposition to action or behaviour. Factors influencing individual attitudes include both internal and external elements. Among internal factors, education plays a significant role, as the majority of respondents had low educational attainment (elementary/middle school level). Age also influences attitudes, as more mature individuals demonstrate stronger reasoning capacity and accumulated knowledge, which tends to result in favourable attitudes. External factors, particularly information exposure, also critically influence attitudes. The majority of respondents had never received information about TT immunization, representing a significant barrier to favourable attitude formation. Information sources further influence attitudes; among those who had received information, most accessed informal sources rather than healthcare professionals. Therefore, this study concludes that education level, age, information availability, and information sources collectively contribute to unfavourable attitudes among primigravida mothers regarding TT immunization.

SUGGESTION

1. For Healthcare Providers: Implement comprehensive health education programmes on TT immunization using diverse methods (individual counselling, group education, visual media, and printed materials) targeted at primigravida mothers to accelerate information dissemination throughout the community.
2. For Healthcare Facilities: Establish systematic approaches to provide TT immunization information during antenatal care visits, including standardized educational materials and dedicated counselling time for primigravida mothers.
3. For Health Authorities: Develop community-based TT immunization campaigns that address specific barriers identified in this study, including low educational levels and information source preferences.
4. For Future Research: Conduct analytical studies to examine the relationship between specific sociodemographic factors, information exposure, and attitudes toward TT immunization among primigravida mothers, with larger samples and in diverse settings.

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