

Muslim Husbands' Participation in Women's Health and Illness: A Descriptive Exploratory Study Applied to Muslim Women in Indonesia

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Abstract : Muslim husbands have significant roles in the family including their roles in women's health and illness. However, studies that explore Muslim husbands' participation in women's health is limited. The objective of this study was to uncover Muslim husbands' participation in women's health and illness including cancer prevention and screening. A descriptive exploratory approach was used involving 20 Muslim women from urban and rural areas of West Java Province, Indonesia. Muslim women shared experience related to their husbands support and activities in women's health and illness. The data from the interviews were analyzed using the Comparative Analysis for Interview (CAI). Women perceived that husbands fully supported their health by providing opportunities for activities, and reminding them about healthy food, their workloads, and family planning. Husbands actively involved when women faced health issues including sharing knowledge and experience, discussing any health problems, advising for medical check-ups, and accompanying them for treatments. The analysis also found that husbands were less active and offered less advice regarding prevention and early detection of cancer. This study highlights the significant involvement of Muslim husbands in women's health and illness, yet a lack of support from husbands related to screening and cancer prevention. This condition could be a burden for Muslim women to participate in health programs related to cancer prevention and early detection. Health education programs to improve Muslim husbands' understanding of women's health is needed.

Keywords : descriptive exploratory study, Muslim husbands, Muslim women, women's health and illness

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