RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SUPPORT AND VISIT TO THE ELDERLY INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICE POSTS IN KUPANG, EAST NUSA TENGGARA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Elderly people are at risk for diseases and disabling conditions. Therefore, they need to use more medical care services and incur medical expenses. Social support has an important role in modulating the clinical impact of underlying disease and is often the major determinant in decisions to visit health service. The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between social support and visit to the elderly integrated health service post in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara.

Subjects and Method: A cross sectional study was carried out at 12 elderly integrated health posts (posyandu) in Baun health center, West Amarasi, Kupang, West Nusa Tenggara. A sample of 189 elderly was selected by proportional random sampling. The dependent variable was posyandu visit. The independent variable was social support. The data were collected by questionnaire and analyzed by chi square.

Results: Weak social support decreased the probability of posyandu visit (OR= 0.14; 95% CI= 2.95 to 26.21; p<0.001).

Conclusion: Weak social support decreased posyandu visit.

Keywords: posyandu visit, social support, elderly