



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC  
PROFILE AND BREASTFEEDING PRACTICE AMONG  
MOTHERS IN SELANGOR, MALAYSIA: A COHORT  
STUDY

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DECEMBER 2014

## **DECLARATION**

We hereby declared that the work in this thesis is on our own except for quotations as well as summaries which have been appropriately acknowledged.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful Alhamdulillah, all praises to Allah for the strength and His blessing in completing this thesis. Special appreciation goes to our supervisor, Madam Syahrul Bariah bt. Abdul Hamid, for her supervision and constant support. Without her guide our thesis cannot be done properly like this. She always give supports and guide to us how to do our thesis in purpose to produce good outcome from research that been study. We also would like to thanks to our co-supervisor, Mr. Nazrul Hadi bin Ismail for his support and knowledge regarding this topic. We taking this opportunity to express our gratitude to the selected government health clinic in Selangor that involve in our study because give permission and allowing us to conduct this study at clinic.

A big thanks to our beloved group members that always stick together and also work hard to produce a good thesis with all afford and responsibility. Even though a little bit problems were happen among us while doing this cohort study, luckily, the entire problem can be settling down and were able to adapt properly and wisely. Hope that all the efforts will give a lot of benefits to us and also to our group project. Thanks for the friendship and memories.

Our acknowledgement also goes to all the office staffs of Nutrition and Dietetic department for their co-operations. Last but not least, our deepest gratitude goes to our beloved parents for their endless love, prayers and encouragement. To those who indirectly contributed in this cohort study research, your kindness means a lot to us. Thank you very much.

## ABSTRACT

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months of age. The focus of this research is to identify whether socio-demographic factors affect the breastfeeding practice in term of initiation and duration of breastfeeding in a cohort of 146 subjects who age between 18 to 40 years old. This study was done among third trimester pregnant mother selected from the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) section of the government health clinics in Selangor. The Iowa Infant Feeding Attitude Scale (IIFAS) has been used to assess the association of knowledge with the time of initiation and duration of breastfeeding by mothers. This study is a quantitative research followed by questionnaire at third trimester of pregnancy, telephones interviews at first and third after delivery, and home-visit at sixth month after delivery. The expected outcome of this study is socio-demographic factors such as maternal age, residential areas, maternal economic status, maternal education level, parity and maternal employment status strongly affect breastfeeding practice among the target population. Result indicated education background and household income show significant association with the time of initiation of breastfeeding. The most important socio-demographic characteristic associated with duration of breastfeeding during three and six months were mother's age and employment status. Besides, infant feeding knowledge of the mothers does not showed any significant association with both the time of breastfeeding initiation and duration. In conclusion, some of the demographic characteristics showed significant association with the time of initiation of breastfeeding and duration of breastfeeding during three and six months. The IIFAS, while predictive of breastfeeding knowledge of the mothers was not associated with both the time of breastfeeding initiation and duration. The findings of this study can be useful for government in adapting and developing policy regarding breastfeeding practice in Malaysia.

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