

The Difference of Sex, Age, and Income on the Treatment Searching Behavior for Oral Disease

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Abstract

Treatment searching behavior for the oral disease has an impact to people's oral health status, which this behavior is influenced by internal and external factors.

To find the difference of sex, age, and income on the treatment searching behavior. Method: Analytical observation research by using cross sectional approach to the people in Kranjingan village, Jember Region from 20 – 70 years old people with purposive sampling (64 people). Researched variables are sex, age, income, and treatment searching behavior for oral disease. The data is analyzed using Independent T-test.

There is no difference of age and sex on treatment searching behavior for oral disease ($p > 0,05$). There is difference of income on treatment searching behavior for oral disease ($p < 0,05$).

There is no difference of sex, age, and income on treatment searching behavior for oral disease, but there is a difference of income on treatment searching behavior for oral disease.

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Introduction

Treatment searching behavior for oral disease has an important impact on oral health status.¹

One example of the oral health problem is Periodontitis. Sunarto et al., (2016) said that Periodontitis is an inflammation of tooth's supporting structure, caused by specific microorganisms. This leads to progressive destruction of periodontal ligament and alveolar bone, along with an increase in pocket depth, recession, or both. Health seeking behavior is the behavior of individual / group / population to seek treatment. The sick need treatment to cure their diseases.²

Health seeking behavior by the population is affected by individual's response in times of illness and the need for health services.³ Research which was conducted by Martiyana and Handayani (2015) said that people usually cure it by their own-selves at first, if the illness is

not cured then they will find the treatment to the health worker.⁴ Jung *et al* (2014) explained that factors which influence the treatment searching behavior are such as education, income, occupation, psycho-social, treatment efficiency, and believe to health facility.

Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct a further research to find the difference of sex, age, and income on treatment searching behavior for oral disease.⁵

Materials and methods

This research uses analytical observation research by using *cross sectional* approach at Kranjingan village, Jember Region (2 – 7 January 2017). The population in this research is people at Kranjingan village, Jember Region who are 20 – 70 years old. The sampling technique which is used is purposive sampling (64 samples).

Variables in this research are sex, age, income, and treatment searching behavior for oral disease. The measuring tool in this research is questioners. Data is analyzed using *Independent T-test* to see the difference of sex, age, and income on treatment searching behavior for oral disease.

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Results

Research on the difference of sex, age, and income on treatment searching behavior for oral disease to 64 respondents shows the distribution of respondents based on the sex. Table 1 shows that the total number of woman is 43 people (67%) is more than total number of man which is 21 people (33%).

Sex	Amount	%
Man	21	33
Woman	43	67
Total	64	100

Table 1. Respondents' distribution based on the sex.

Early-adult is the most of responden with 20 people (31%). Meanwhile, the least is Late-Elder with 5 people (8%) and senior with 5 people (8%). The distribution of respondents based one the age can be seen on the table 2, as follow:

Age	Amount	%
Late-Youth	14	22
Early-Adult	20	31
Late-Adult	14	22
Early-Elder	6	9
Late-Elder	5	8
Senior	5	8
Total	64	100

Table 2. Respondents' distribution based on the age.

The families which have income below UMR are 43 (72%), while they which have income above UMR is 28 (28%). The amount of family which has income below UMR is more than the one above UMR. Respondents' distribution based on the income can be seen in the table 3, as follow:

Income	Amount	%
Below UMR	46	72
Above UMR	18	28
Total	64	100

Note: UMR of Jember Region 2017 is Rp. 1,629,000.

Table 3. Respodents' distribution based on the income.

There is no difference of sex on treatment searching behavior for oral disease ($p = 0.12$).

Researcher did *Independent T-test* of sex on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease, as follow (table 4):

Variable	Sig.	Annotation
Sex – Treatment Searching Behavior for Oral Disease	0.12	There is no difference

Table 4. *Independent T-test* of Sex on The Treatment Searching Behavior for Oral Disease.

There is no difference of age on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease ($p = 0.47$). *Independent T-test* of age on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease, as follow (table 5):

Variable	Sig.	Annotation
Age – Treatment Searching Behavior for Oral Disease	0.47	There is no difference

Table 5. *Independent T-test* of age on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease.

There is difference of income on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease ($p = 0.00$). Researcher did *Independent T-test* of income on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease, as follow (table 6).

Variable	Sig.	Annotation
Income – Treatment Searching Behavior for Oral Disease	0.00	There is difference

Table 6. *Independent T-test* of income on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease.

Discussion

Based on the data distribution of research's result which had been done to people at Kranjingan village based on the sex, it is found that almost respondent is woman. Research data distribution based on the age is concluded that the most respondents are early-adult. Research data distribution based on the income shows that there are more people who have income below UMR (*Regional Minimum Income*) than they who have income above UMR.

There is no difference of sex on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease. It is supported by Socias Research which stated that sex has no impact to the treatment searching behavior.⁶ Treatment searching behavior for oral disease on male or female is related to motivation.⁷ Internal motivation is from someone's knowledge while external factor is from the outer of individual which push someone

to do something, such as support from family or health worker.⁸ The research which had been done by Silva *et al* explains that there is no relationship between age and sex to visit time to doctor. Although woman from any age usually is more frequently searching tooth treatment than man, but it is not impossible for both of them have same possibility to access health care.⁹ Sex does not impact the treatment searching behavior, maybe due to man or woman usually cure themselves by their own way.¹⁰ People usually cure themselves with no need go to doctor as long as the illness does not disturb their activity.¹¹

There is no difference of age on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease. Like sex, age also does not influence the treatment searching behavior for oral disease because the urge to cure illness in each individual with any range of age is influenced by motivation.⁷ The increase of oral disease is in line with the changing of age, but someone's age does not influence the treatment searching behavior for oral disease because that illness can be found in any age.¹² The same thing was stated Montero *et al* (2014), that someone with any age can experience health problem if he/ she does not care about his/ her tooth health. Someone will do a searching of treatment if he/ she experiences toothache.^{13,14} This condition is different with the research of Dalipi *et al.*, (2013) which showed that the mean age of the healthy subjects was 30.4 ± 5.7 years, while subjects with periodontitis had a mean age 45.1 ± 10.7 years. This difference was statistically significant ($P < 0.0001$).¹⁵

There is difference of people on treatment searching behavior for oral disease. It is supported by Liu's research (2015), that almost respondents which have low income never visit dentist, while they who has high income are reported in the latest 2 years visit dentist, it is caused by the cost of dental care is relatively very expensive.¹⁴ WHO, *Regional Office for South-East Asia through Strategy for Oral Health in South East Asia, 2013-2020*, gave a statement that oral care is the 4th most expensive and need very expensive cost.¹⁶ Lawrence Green's theory, the form of human behavior from health level (including treatment searching behavior for oral disease) is influenced by three factors, which are predisposing factor that includes attitude, tradition, system of value, education level, socio-

economy; enabling factor including accessible health facility, access to service, quality of service; and reinforcing factor such as attitude and habit of parents or family, public figure, religion figure, health worker, and law about health.¹⁷

Conclusions

There is no difference of sex and age on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease, but there is difference of income on the treatment searching behavior for oral disease.

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Declaration of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

List of Abbreviations

UMR : Regional Minimum Income

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