

ABSTRAK

Latar Belakang: Di Kabupaten Rote Ndao, Nusa Tenggara Timur, persalinan masih banyak dibantu dukun bayi meskipun berisiko tinggi seperti perdarahan postpartum. Praktik budaya *Tusi* meliputi ritual, urut tradisional, dan minyak kelapa asli dipercaya menjaga keseimbangan fisik, emosional, dan spiritual ibu hamil. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi praktik *Tusi* dalam persalinan, pandangan masyarakat terhadap prosedur modern, serta integrasi budaya *Tusi* dalam pelayanan persalinan di Desa Daiama.

Tujuan: Mengeksplorasi praktik budaya *Tusi* dalam konteks persalinan, pandangan masyarakat terhadap prosedur persalinan modern, serta porsi budaya *Tusi* dalam pelayanan persalinan modern di Desa Daiama, Kabupaten Rote Ndao.

Metode: Pendekatan kualitatif etnografi dengan keterlibatan langsung dalam praktik urut, melibatkan 10 informan: 2 dukun bayi tradisional, 6 ibu pascasalin, dan 2 tenaga kesehatan formal (bidan desa), untuk perspektif holistik antara praktik tradisional dan medis.

Hasil: Praktik *Tusi* tetap pilihan utama karena kedekatan emosional, nilai spiritual, dan legitimasi sosial. Prosedur modern dinilai kurang personal dan tidak sesuai norma budaya, meskipun komplikasi memerlukan intervensi medis. Kolaborasi dukun bayi dan tenaga kesehatan menjadi krusial, berkontribusi pada ilmu kebidanan komunitas dan kesehatan berbasis budaya.

Kesimpulan: Masyarakat mengakui manfaat pemeriksaan kehamilan serta persalinan modern (USG, normal, *sectio caesarea*), tetapi jarak, biaya, dan ikatan budaya membuat *Tusi* dominan. Trauma atau komplikasi seperti perdarahan pasca-*Tusi* mendorong beralih ke bidan. Pola dualisme adaptif muncul: 70–80% persalinan dimulai dengan *Tusi*, dilanjutkan layanan medis, mengendalikan risiko tanpa hilangkan nilai budaya.

Kata Kunci: Persalinan, *Tusi*, Dukun bayi.

ABSTRACT

Background: In Rote Ndao Regency, East Nusa Tenggara, traditional birth attendants (TBAs) still frequently assist births despite high risks, such as postpartum hemorrhage. Tusi cultural practices, including rituals, traditional massage, and pure coconut oil, are believed to maintain the physical, emotional, and spiritual balance of pregnant women. This study explores Tusi practices in childbirth, community perceptions of modern procedures, and the integration of Tusi culture into delivery services in Daiama Village.

Objective: To explore Tusi cultural practices in the context of childbirth, community perceptions of modern delivery procedures, and the role of Tusi culture in modern delivery services in Daiama Village, Rote Ndao Regency.

Methods: A qualitative ethnographic approach with direct involvement in massage practices, involving 10 informants: 2 traditional TBAs, 6 postpartum mothers, and 2 formal health workers (village midwives), provided a holistic perspective on the relationship between traditional and medical practices.

Results: Tusi practices remain the preferred choice due to their emotional closeness, spiritual values, and social legitimacy. Modern procedures are perceived as less personal and inconsistent with cultural norms, even when complications require medical intervention. Collaboration between traditional birth attendants and health workers is crucial, contributing to community midwifery and culture-based health.

Conclusion: The community recognizes the benefits of modern prenatal care and delivery (ultrasound, vaginal delivery, cesarean section), but distance, cost, and cultural ties make Tusi dominant. Trauma or complications such as post-Tusi hemorrhage encourage a shift to midwives. A pattern of adaptive dualism emerges: 70–80% of births begin with Tusi, followed by medical care, managing risks without losing cultural values.

Keywords: Childbirth, Tusi, Traditional Birth Attendants.