

Socio-demographic characteristics of women who had tubal ligation in a single institution in Sabah

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: In 2019, the number of live births in Sabah was 52,686; the third highest recorded by state in Malaysia. In order to balance the population pyramid structure, tubal ligation is offered as a permanent contraceptive method for fertility regulation. The aim of our study is to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of women who had tubal ligation in Sabah Women and Children Hospital (SWACH). **Methods:** This is a cross-sectional study. Simple random sampling is used to select the subjects. A total of 241 women who had tubal ligation in SWACH in the year 2019 are included in the study. Relevant data such as age, ethnicity, occupation, surgical history and number of children are collected from the case notes. **Results:** The mean age for women who had tubal ligation is 36 years (SD 3.87) with 67.9% (n= 163) being aged 35 years and above. Thirty percent (n= 72) were of Dusun ethnicity. The mean number of children is 4 (SD 1.68) with more than half having 3-4 children (50.9%, n= 122). Majority of the women are housewives (62.5%, n= 150). More than 90.0% (n= 220) of the women had their tubal ligation immediately after a caesarean section. **Conclusion:** The results suggest that increased risk of complications with advanced maternal age, increased family financial burden with the addition of a child and easy accessibility to tubal ligation service are likely to influence women's decision to have tubal ligation. Future studies should include multiple study sites, factors such as education, income and other available methods of contraception into consideration.