

# **Intention of Women of Reproductive Age Participation** on the Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid Uptake

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The biggest problem in preventing cervical cancer depends on the compliance of women of childbearing age in carrying out a Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) examination, while obedient behavior will arise if there is a strong and consistent intention. Analyzing the effect of intention as a mediating variable between attitude, subjective norm and behavioral control on the behavior of VIA examination participation in women of reproductive age.

Subjects and Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted on 164 women of childbearing age who were married in the working area of the Pesantren I Public Health Center, Kediri City. The independent variables (attitude, subjective norms, behavioral control), and the dependent variable (behavior), and the mediating variable (intentions). The sampling technique used simple random sampling. The questionnaire in this study was divided into two parts, the first part consisted of demographic details of the respondents and the second part related to the research variables. The analysis technique in this study uses path analysis.

**Results:** This study shows that attitudes, subjective norms, and control behavior do not have a direct influence on behavior, but have an indirect influence with intention as a mediating variable. Conclusion: This study shows that attitudes, subjective norms, and control behavior do not have a direct influence on behavior, but have an indirect influence with intention as a mediating variable, this is in accordance with the behavioral constructs of the Theory of Planned Behavior. This means that the influence of Intention as a mediating variable between Attitude, Subjective Norm and Behavioral Control on the Behavior of VIA examination participation in women of childbearing age has been proven true.

**Keywords:** theory of planned behavior, visual inspection of acetic acid, women of childbearing.

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#### BACKGROUND

Indonesia is one of the developing countries with the highest number of cervical cancer sufferers (Kemenkes, 2019). Cervical cancer has become a leading cause of premature death in the last two decades. The biggest problem in cervical cancer prevention depends on the compliance of women of childbearing age in carrying out VIA examinations, while obedient behavior will arise if there is a strong and consistent intention (Wahyuni et al., 2019; WHO, 2014; Yitagesu et al., 2017). The high incidence of cervical cancer in Indonesia is caused by a lack of knowledge and early examination of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is one of the most common types of cancer suffered by women, in 2018 an estimated 570,000 new

cervical cancer cases were found, this figure represents 6.6% of all cancers suffered by women. About 90% of deaths from cervical cancer occur in low and middle-income countries (Kemenkes RI, 2018).

Indonesia is one of the developing countries with the highest number of cervical cancer sufferers (Kemenkes, 2019). Cervical cancer has become a leading cause of premature death in the last two decades. The biggest problem in cervical cancer prevention depends on the compliance of women of childbearing age in carrying out VIA examinations, while obedient behavior will arise if there is a strong and consistent intention (WHO, 2014). The high incidence of cervical cancer in Indonesia is caused by a lack of knowledge and early examination of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is one of the most common types of cancer suffered by women, in 2018 an estimated 570,000 new cervical cancer cases were found, this figure represents 6.6% of all cancers suffered by women. About 90% of deaths from cervical cancer occur in low and middle-income countries (Kemenkes RI, 2018).

Based on WHO data in 2014 in Indonesia cervical cancer ranks second after breast cancer. In Southeast Asia, there were 188,000 new cases of cervical cancer, about 102,000 deaths. In Indonesia, there are 13,762 new cases with 7,493 deaths in a year and Global Cancer Observatory data in 2018 shows the incidence of cancer in Indonesia (136.2/100,000 population) is in 8th place in Southeast Asia, while in Asia it is 23rd. The highest incidence rate for women is breast cancer, which is 42.1 per 100,000 population with an average death rate of 17 per 100,000 population, followed by cervical cancer at 23.4 per 100,000 population with an average death rate of 13.9 per 100,000 population. Based on basic health research data, the prevalence of tumors/cancer in Indonesia shows that in

2013 there were 1.4/1000 population, then in 2018 there was an increase of 1.79/1000 population (Kemenkes, 2019). Based on Basic Health Research data, the prevalence of cervical cancer in East Java province in 2013 was 1.6/1,000 population then in 2018 there was an increase of 2.2%/1,000 population (Vissman et al., 2011).

From the research location, namely Pesantren I Health Center, Kediri City, the initial data obtained according to the Kediri city health office, namely in 2018 from January to December there were 5%, and in 2019 it decreased to 0% in January but in October it increased to 3 %. And data on the fertile age in 2019 there were 6,194 couples of childbearing age but only 666 couples of childbearing age who checked the VIA.

# SUBJECTS AND METHOD

# 1. Study Design

This study is a quantitative study using a cross-sectional design. This research was conducted at the Pesantren I Public Health Center, Kediri City

# 2. Population and Sample

The population in this study were all women of reproductive age who were married in the working area of the Pesantren I Public Health Center, Kediri, with a total of 285 people with a sampling technique using simple random sampling, the number of samples obtained was 164 people.

# 3. Study Variables

The variables in this study are the independent variables (attitude, subjective norms, behavioral control), the dependent variable (behavior) and the mediating variable (intentions).

**4. Operational Definition of Variables Intention** was measured through a questionnaire, covering the following parameters: 1) Trust, 2) Desire to do VIA examination. Respondents were guided to fill in the Nursanti et al./ Intention of Women of Reproductive Age on the VIA Uptake

available questionnaire sheets. The questionnaire uses a Likert scale.

Attitudes were measured through a questionnaire, using the following parameters: 1) Benefits of VIA examination, 2) Confidence in VIA examination. Respondents were guided to fill in the available questionnaire sheets. Questionnaire using a Likert scale.

**Subjective Norms** were measured through a questionnaire, using the following parameters: 1) the influence of customs, 2) the influence of religion, 3) the influence of family, 4) the influence of friends, 5) the motivation to do VIA examination. Respondents were guided to fill in the available questionnaire sheets. Questionnaire using a Likert scale.

**Behavior** was measured through a questionnaire, using the following parameters: 1) Confidence, 2) Ease of VIA examination, 3) Availability of VIA examination. Respondents were guided to fill in the available questionnaire sheets. Questionnaire using a Likert scale.

# 5. Study Instruments

In this study, the research instrument used was a questionnaire. The instrument used to measure the variables of this study was using a Likert scale.

#### 6. Data analysis

The analytical technique used to determine the effect of the role of Intention on Attitudes, Subjective Norms and Behavioral Control on Behavioral VIA examination participation using Path Analysis which was carried out with the help of SPSS software.

# 7. Research Ethics

This research has been approved by the health research ethics commission of the Institute of Health Sciences STRADA No: 2616/KEPK/IV/2021, on April 27, 2021.

# RESULTS

#### 1. Sample Characteristic

Data about the Socio-demographic Characteristics of the respondents. The most age ranged from 27-33 years (56.7%). The most educational status is junior high school (45.7%). In this study, it was found that most of the women did not work (86%).

No	Socio-demographic	n	%
1	Age		
	20-26 Years	42	25.6
	27-33 Years	93	56.7
	34-40 Years	29	17.7
2	Education level		
	elementary school	15	9.1
	Junior high school	75	45.8
	Senior high school	74	45.1
3	Employment		
	Does not work	141	86
	Work	23	14

 Table 1. Socio-demographic Characteristics (n=164)

# 2. Multivariate Analysis

The results of the research that have been achieved are at the stage of processing data from the results of distributing questionnaires which include the variables of Intention, Attitude, Subjective Norm, Behavioral Control and Behavior. The study was conducted using a simple random sampling technique at the Pesantren I Public Health Center in Kediri City with a total sample of 164 respondents. Based on the data obtained, data analysis was carried out on 164 respondents using Path Analysis which was carried out with the help of SPSS software. From the Nursanti et al./ Intention of Women of Reproductive Age on the VIA Uptake

results of the analysis, the research results are in accordance with the concept of planned behavior theory. That attitudes, subjective norms, and control behavior do not **Path Analysis**  have a direct influence on behavior, but have an indirect influence with intention as a mediating variable.

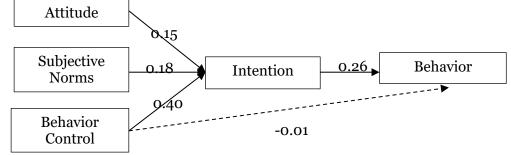


Figure 1. Path analysis diagram of the factors influencing participation of women of age in acetate visual inspection of acetic acid.

Variables			Standardized b coefficient	р
Intention	÷	Attitude	0.15	0.028
	←	Subjective Norm	0.18	0.011
	÷	Perceived Behavior Control	0.40	0.000
Behavior	←	Intention	0.6	0.004
	←	Attitude	0.05	0.497
	÷	Subjective Norms	0.08	0.336
	←	Perceived Behavior Control	-0.01	0.937

Table 2.	Statistical	Test	Results
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#### DISCUSSION

This study shows that attitudes, subjective norms, and control behavior do not have a direct influence on behavior, but have an indirect influence with intention as a mediating variable, this is in accordance with the behavioral constructs of the Theory of Planned Behavior. This means that the effect of Intention as a mediating variable between Attitude, Subjective Norm and Behavioral Control on the Behavior of Participating in VIA examinations in women of childbearing age has been proven to be true. Intention in this study is defined as the desire or intention in the hearts of the respondents to take the VIA examination in women of childbearing age. Statistically it can be seen that Intention is a trigger factor for the emergence of VIA examination behavior in women of childbearing age, while Intention or Intention itself is formed from Attitudes, Subjective Norms, and Control Behaviors.

The results of other studies say that intention is an indication of how strong an individual's belief is to try a behavior, and how much effort to behave (Adiutama et al., 2019). Behavioral intention is only a plan or desire, so in this case the intention cannot be said to be a behavior (McDermott et al., 2015). Intentions are an indication of how strong the individual's belief is to try a behavior, and how much effort to behave (Miller et al., 2014). A person's factor to behave is influenced by the desire, intentional, or because it has been planned. Behavioral intention is a plan or desire, so in this case the intention cannot be said to be a behavior (Rich et al., 2015). This is reinforced by a meta-analysis conducted by Rich et al. (2015) that attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavior control show a significant relationship to intention. Another study stated that the Theory Planned of Behavior structure elicits the intention to behave obediently (Addisu et al., 2014; Peleg et al., 2017) and TPB significantly predicts the intention to seek treatment of patients (Lin et al., 2016).

According to the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), intentions are formed from 3 dimensions, namely: 1) attitude toward behavior: a person's desire to behave because he knows the positive impact of the behavior; 2) subjective norms: a person's desire to perform a behavior because of support from people around him; 3) perceived behavioral control: a person will continue to perform a behavior because of the driving factors of attitude toward behavior and subjective norms (Kopelowicz et al., 2015). The Theory of Planned Behavior illustrates that intention is a direct factor of behavior, so it can be said that a certain individual's behavior will be consistent depending on the stability of the intention itself (Adiutama and Fauzi, 2021).

Previous studies on intention in the Theory of Planned Behavior explained that attitudes, subjective norms, control behavior, intentions and behavior in the Theory of Planned Behavior construct can explain well how a person's obedient behavior is formed in treatment (Adiutama, 2020). Adherence to treatment also depends on the individual's own personal orientation. Cognitive education model moderated by the Theory of Planned Behavior construct proved to be effective in understanding one's health intentions and behavior (Addisu et al., 2014). Behavior is based on a belief approach that forms intentions and encourages individuals to perform certain behaviors. The main factors forming intentions are attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavior control (Adiutama et al., 2018). However, the accuracy of intentions in predicting behavior is not completely absolute, although many experts have proven a strong correlation between intentions and behavior, it turns out that in several studies there is also a weak relationship between the two. One of the reasons for this is the instability of intention (Adiutama and Fauzi, 2021).

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) states that the behavior displayed by individuals arises because of the intention to behave. While the emergence of behavioral intentions is determined by 3 determining factors, namely: 1) Attitude, namely individual beliefs about the results of a behavior (belief strength) and outcome evaluation; 2) Subjective Norms, namely beliefs about the normative expectations of others (normative belief) and motivation to meet these expectations (motivation to comply); and 3) Control Behavior, namely the belief about the existence of things that support or hinder the behavior to be displayed (control belief) and the perception of how strong the things that support and inhibit their behavior (perceived power). Barriers that may arise when the behavior is displayed can come from within oneself or from the environment. Sequentially, behavioral beliefs produce attitudes toward positive or negative behavior, normative beliefs produce perceived social pressures or subjective norms and control beliefs lead to perceived behavioral control or perceived behavioral control (Dewanti et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020).

The intention to behave in carrying out VIA examinations on women of childbearing age is only the desire of someone who is planned to carry out the examination. Intention is said to be large because of the strong belief of the individual to try a behavior (attitude), the amount of support from those closest to him (subjective norms), and the person's perception that the behavior can be done (control behavior). On the other hand, a person will have low intentions because the person does not have the confidence to try a behavior, there is no support from the closest person and the person's perception that the behavior will not be able to be carried out.

The research was conducted at the Puskesmas Pesantren I Kota Kediri, which at the time of the study coincided with the Covid-19 Pandemic, so that many health workers were busy with handling covid patients and vaccinations, and also many patients were afraid to come to the Puskesmas, so it took more time and effort for the data collection process.

This study shows that attitudes, subjective norms, and control behavior do not have a direct influence on behavior, but have an indirect influence with intention as a mediating variable, this is in accordance with the behavioral constructs of the Theory of Planned Behavior. This means that the influence of Intention as a mediating variable between Attitude, Subjective Norm and Behavioral Control on the Behavior of VIA examination participation in women has been proven true.

# **AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Devy Putri Nursanti is the main researcher who chooses the topic, explores and collects data. Agusta Dian Ellina played a role in analyzing data and reviewing research documents.

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# **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There are no conflicts of interest of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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