

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CARE TO INCREASE MATERNAL ABILITY IN CARING PREMATURE INFANTS

Noer Saudah<sup>1)</sup>, Binarti<sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup> Department of Maternity Nursing, STIKES Bina Sehat PPNI, Mojokerto

<sup>2)</sup> Department of Medical and Surgical Nursing,  
STIKES Bina Sehat PPNI, Mojokerto

## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Premature born infants are at high risk for asphyxia, jaundice, and infection. Health care providers and mothers, therefore, should pay more attention to the care of their premature infants. Experiential learning is the process of learning through experience, and is more specifically defined as learning through reflection on doing. This study aimed to determine the effect of experiential learning care (ELC) on the ability of mothers in caring their premature infants.

**SUBJECT AND METHODS:** This was a quasi-experiment, pre and post with no control group design. A sample of 56 mothers with premature infants who were hospitalized at the Perinatal Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Dr. Wahidin Sudiro Husodo Hospital, Mojokerto, were selected for this study. The dependent variable included various abilities of mother in caring premature infants. The independent variable was ELC with module. The effect of ELC on various dependent variables was analyzed by Odds Ratio, 95%CI, and Chi square.

**RESULTS :** ELC increased maternal ability to recognize abnormal clinical signs and symptoms in premature infants including apnea, hypothermia, and poor nutrition (OR=89.31; 95%CI= 19.12 to 417.20;  $p<0.001$ ), the ability to identify other clinical problems in premature infants (OR=64.78; 95%CI= 17.19 to 244.10;  $p<0.001$ ), the ability to take care of their premature infants (OR=58.44; 95%CI=15.64 to 218.40;  $p<0.001$ ), and the ability to make clinical decision together with health care provider (OR=99.00; 95%CI=21.04 to 465.90;  $p<0.001$ ).

**CONCLUSION:** Experiential learning care can increase maternal ability to take care of their premature infants.

**Keyword:** experiential learning care, premature infants