

Response to “Effectiveness of Husbands’ Support Exclusive Breastfeeding Facebook Programme During the COVID-19 Pandemic” [Letter]

Norlaila Sofia

Midwifery Department, Poltekkes Kemenkes, Banjarmasin, Indonesia

Correspondence: Norlaila Sofia, Department of Midwifery, Poltekkes Kemenkes, Jl. H. Mistar Cokrokusumo No. 1A Kelurahan Sei Besar Banjarbaru, Banjarmasin, Kalimantan Selatan, Indonesia, Email fia.bjm03@gmail.com

Dear editor

I read with great interest the study by Thepha et al on the effectiveness of a Facebook-based exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) support program for husbands during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ While this research provides valuable insights, there are some limitations that warrant discussion.

The study’s quasi-experimental design limits causal inferences. A randomized controlled trial would provide stronger evidence for the program’s efficacy.² Additionally, the small sample size (n=72) may limit generalizability. A larger, more diverse sample could enhance external validity.

The authors report significant improvements in husbands’ EBF knowledge but not in attitudes or behaviors. This raises questions about the program’s ability to translate knowledge gains into meaningful behavioral change. Future research should explore strategies to more effectively influence attitudes and behaviors, perhaps by incorporating elements of behavior change theories.³

The study’s reliance on self-reported measures introduces potential bias. Objective measures of breastfeeding outcomes (eg, infant weight gain, breastfeeding duration) would strengthen the findings.⁴ Moreover, the short follow-up period (1 month) may not capture long-term effects. A longitudinal design could provide insights into the program’s sustained impact.

While the Facebook platform offers accessibility, it may exclude participants without internet access or digital literacy. Exploring alternative delivery methods could enhance inclusivity. Additionally, the potential for misinformation spread on social media platforms warrants careful consideration in health education interventions.⁵

Despite these limitations, this study contributes valuable knowledge to the field of breastfeeding support, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors’ innovative use of social media to engage fathers in breastfeeding education is commendable. Future research building on this work could significantly impact breastfeeding rates and maternal-child health outcomes.

In conclusion, while this study provides promising initial evidence for a Facebook-based EBF support program, addressing the noted limitations in future research will strengthen the evidence base for such interventions.

Disclosure

The author reports no conflicts of interest in this communication.

References

1. Thepha T, Theeranut A, Muangpin S, Jantawong P, Nguyen G. Effectiveness of husbands’ support exclusive breastfeeding Facebook programme during the COVID-19 pandemic. *J Multidiscip Healthc*. 2024;17:3227–3234. doi:10.2147/JMDH.S465483

2. Victora CG, Bahl R, Barros AJD, et al. Breastfeeding in the 21st century: epidemiology, mechanisms, and lifelong effect. *Lancet*. 2016;387:475–490. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01024-7
3. Rollins NC, Bhandari N, Hajeebhoy N, et al. Why invest, and what it will take to improve breastfeeding practices? *Lancet*. 2016;387:491–504. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01044-2
4. Pérez-Escamilla R, Tomori C, Hernández-Cordero S, et al. Breastfeeding: crucially important, but increasingly challenged in a market-driven world. *Lancet*. 2023;401:472–485. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(22)01932-8
5. Robinson A, Lauckner C, Davis M, Hall J, Anderson AK. Facebook support for breastfeeding mothers: a comparison to offline support and associations with breastfeeding outcomes. *Digit Health*. 2019;5:205520761985339. doi:10.1177/2055207619853397

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

The Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare is an international, peer-reviewed open-access journal that aims to represent and publish research in healthcare areas delivered by practitioners of different disciplines. This includes studies and reviews conducted by multidisciplinary teams as well as research which evaluates the results or conduct of such teams or healthcare processes in general. The journal covers a very wide range of areas and welcomes submissions from practitioners at all levels, from all over the world. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/journal-of-multidisciplinary-healthcare-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/JMDH.S486963>