

*Experiences of "Lost to Follow-Up" Behavior Among Female Sex Workers
(FSWs) Undergoing Antiretroviral (ARV) Treatment in Jember.*

Dr. Faiqatul Hikmah S.Km.,M.Kes (Advisor)

Mayfida Distinabila Ambarkahi
Health Promotion Study Program
Department of Health

ABSTRACT

Lost to Follow Up (LTFU) in Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment is a serious issue in HIV/AIDS management as it increases the risk of treatment failure, drug resistance, and wider HIV transmission. Female Sex Workers (FSWs) are considered a high-risk population prone to experiencing LTFU due to various internal and external factors. This study aims to describe and analyze the phenomenon of LTFU in ARV treatment among HIV-positive FSWs in Jember Regency using a case study approach. This research employed a qualitative method with data collected through in-depth interviews involving FSWs who experienced LTFU and key informants from supporting non-governmental organizations. Data were analyzed thematically based on the Health Belief Model (HBM), which includes perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, cues to action, and self-efficacy. The findings indicate that LTFU behavior among FSWs is influenced by low perceived susceptibility and benefits of treatment, high perceived barriers such as drug side effects, social stigma, high mobility, and limited access to healthcare services. Additionally, lack of social support and low self-efficacy further contribute to the decision to discontinue treatment. Therefore, comprehensive intervention strategies are needed through educational approaches, strengthening social support, and improving healthcare service quality to enhance adherence to ARV therapy among FSWs.

Keywords: Lost to Follow Up, Antiretroviral (ARV), HIV/AIDS, Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Health Belief Model