

## **A30 What are the factors that influence women's decisions to induce lactation? A qualitative study of adoptive nursing by 23 women**

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Induction of lactation occurs when breast milk is produced in women, without going through the process of pregnancy and delivery. Induced lactation is a method to enhance the relationship between an adopted child with the adoptive mother. This study aimed to explore the factors influencing women's decisions on induced lactation. This study was conducted in 2017 in five Malaysian states [Central Region (Selangor), Northern Region (Penang), Southern Region (Johor), East Coast Region (Kelantan), Malaysia Borneo (Sabah)] applying in-depth interviews with women who went through induced lactation. This qualitative approach helped establish comprehensive insights from women's experiences in the journey of induced lactation. The semi-structured questionnaire was used in face-to-face interviews with respondents. All interviews were consented, audio-recorded, and transcribed verbatim, followed by identification of emerging themes. Data saturation was obtained after interviewing 23 respondents. Data was synthesised via thematic analysis of Atlas t.i version 8.0. The finding revealed that there were three themes describing the main factors in determining women's decisions on induced lactation: (1) *mahram* relationship, (2) experiencing motherhood, and (3) the perceived superiority of breastfeeding. Induced lactation is analogous to ordinary life, where favorable attitudes are followed by a strong drive to achieve. It is hoped that by identifying the various factors that influence the decision on induce lactation, health care professionals and the community will be empowered to support breastfeeding in terms of facilitating motherhood, providing breastfeeding aid equipment, and assisting with daily necessities. By expanding efforts and programs, the government and other stakeholders can assist adoptive mothers in breastfeeding their children and feeling more accomplished as women and mothers.