



Health Worker's Compliance and Pregnant Women's Perceptions of The MCH Handbook : A Scoping Review

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Track Record Article	Abstract
<p>Revised: 27 June 2025 Accepted: 05 July 2025 Published: 21 July 2025</p> <p>How to cite: Nafiani, E., Zulvayanti, & Sari, P. (2025). Health Worker's Compliance and Pregnant Women's Perceptions of The MCH Handbook : A Scoping Review. <i>Contagion: Scientific Periodical Journal of Public Health and Coastal</i>, 7(1), 391–403.</p>	<p><i>The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook is a vital tool designed to enhance maternal and child health services by fostering improved communication between healthcare providers and expectant mothers. However, its effective utilization is significantly influenced by various factors, particularly the adherence of health workers to its guidelines and the perceptions held by pregnant women. This scoping review investigates the determinants affecting health workers' compliance and the engagement of pregnant women with the MCH Handbook. A systematic search of electronic databases was conducted to identify relevant studies published over the past decade, employing thematic analysis to categorize the factors impacting compliance and perceptions. Preliminary findings indicate that organizational support, training, workload, and motivation play crucial roles in health workers' adherence, while factors such as literacy levels, cultural beliefs, and previous healthcare experiences shape pregnant women's perceptions of the handbook. Recognizing these factors is essential for developing targeted interventions aimed at optimizing the handbook's use and improving maternal and child health outcomes. Moreover, the review emphasizes the urgent need for further research to establish evidence-based strategies that enhance the implementation of the MCH Handbook across diverse healthcare settings. Effective use is not solely about distribution; it requires a comprehensive understanding of the contextual factors influencing its application. By addressing the identified barriers and facilitators, stakeholders—including healthcare administrators, policymakers, and community organizations—can create tailored interventions that support health workers and empower pregnant women. Such efforts are expected to lead to improved health services and outcomes for mothers and children, highlighting the importance of a collaborative approach in maternal and child health initiatives. Prioritizing this research agenda will ensure the MCH Handbook effectively serves families from various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.</i></p> <p>Keyword: <i>MCH Handbook, Health Workers' Compliance, Pregnant Women's Perceptions.</i></p>

INTRODUCTION

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook is a crucial resource aimed at overseeing and enhancing maternal, newborn, and child health services (Wulandari et al., 2022). Designed as a comprehensive home-based record, it incorporates health education, documentation of services, and facilitates communication between healthcare providers and mothers. The MCH Handbook has been extensively implemented in several countries, including Indonesia, to ensure a seamless continuum of care during pregnancy, childbirth, and early childhood (Herinawati et al., 2021). Nevertheless, despite its recognized value, the

consistent and effective application of the MCH Handbook continues to be a challenge in numerous healthcare settings (Clendon & Dignam, 2010).

Health workers play a crucial role in the successful implementation of the MCH Handbook. Their compliance in recording, delivering education, and encouraging mothers to engage with the handbook directly affects its impact on health outcomes. However, compliance among health workers is influenced by several factors such as knowledge, training, workload, organizational support, and personal motivation. Without adequate compliance, the MCH Handbook risks being underutilized, reducing its potential benefits for maternal and child health programs (Rinayati, 2023).

Given the complexity of factors involved, this scoping review aims to map the existing evidence regarding the determinants of health workers' compliance and pregnant women's perceptions in using the MCH Handbook. By systematically exploring available studies, this review seeks to identify research gaps, inform policy development, and contribute to the design of targeted interventions that enhance the utilization of the MCH Handbook to ultimately improve maternal and child health outcomes. Additionally, the perceptions of pregnant women regarding the handbook are vital; if they view it as a valuable tool, they are more likely to engage with it actively, leading to informed decision-making and better health outcomes for both mothers and children. The scoping review examines the interplay between health worker compliance and women's perceptions, highlighting areas for improvement. By identifying barriers to compliance and understanding women's views, stakeholders can develop targeted interventions that enhance the effectiveness of the handbook. Ultimately, this research is essential for promoting better maternal and child health services, ensuring that both health workers and pregnant women are aligned in their understanding and use of the MCH Handbook, which is crucial for fostering a supportive healthcare environment that prioritizes the well-being of mothers and their babies.. (Takeuchi et al., 2016).

METHODS

This study utilizes a scoping review methodology, which involves a systematic process for gathering, screening, and synthesizing existing literature related to the research issue (Pool et al., 2024). Initially, a suitable research topic was developed, along with clear inclusion and exclusion criteria to guide the literature search. A thorough review of the literature was conducted using various scholarly databases, peer-reviewed publications, and relevant sources. After collecting the literature, a rigorous selection process was applied based on the established criteria. The selected studies underwent qualitative data extraction and interpretive analysis to

uncover key themes, patterns, and relationships among the emerging concepts. This analytical approach facilitates a detailed integration of current research findings, offering comprehensive answers to specific study questions. Research questions were formulated using the Population, Exposure, and Outcome (PEO) framework, as presented in the first table (Alan Davies, 2024). One central question addressed is how health workers' compliance and pregnant women's perceptions influence the effective use of the MCH Handbook in maternal and child health services.

Table 1. Selection of the PEO Mnemonic

<i>Population</i>	<i>Exposure</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Health workers Pregnant women	Use and implementation of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook	Level of compliance of health workers and pregnant womens in utilizing the MCH Handbook

Source: Author's Discussion, 2025

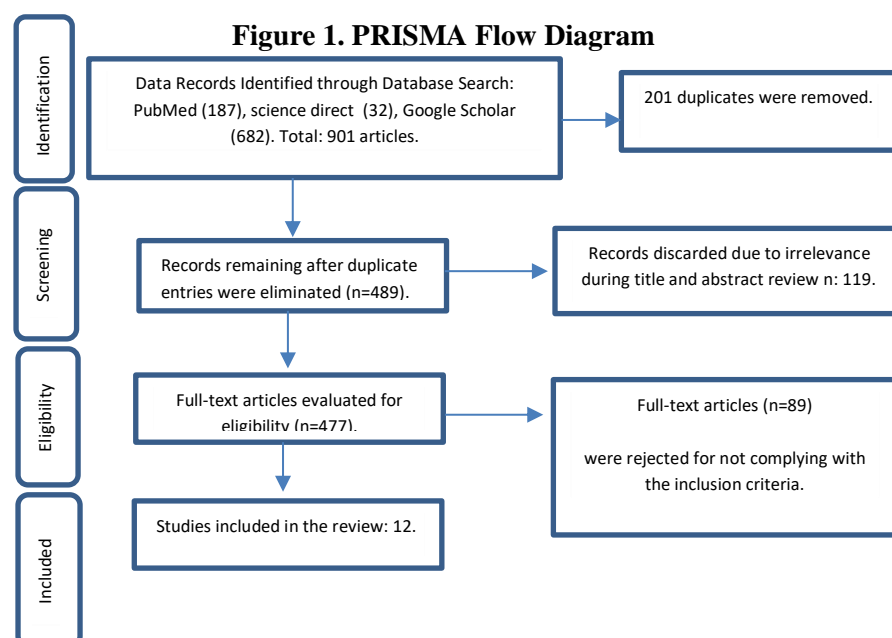
The author outlines the study's parameters by setting inclusion and exclusion criteria for the literature review (Table 2) to ensure relevance, using keywords such as MCH Handbook, Health Workers' Compliance, and Pregnant Women's Perceptions.

Table 2. Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion

Criteria for Inclusion	Criteria for Exclusion
Articles published between the years 2020 and 2024 Articles presented in Indonesian as well as English Articles available in full text	Books, blogs Full article access requires a purchase

Source: Author's Discussion, 2025

The researcher conducted a literature review using various academic search engines and collected 901 items, including 187 from PubMed, 34 from Garuda, 187 from Scopus, 193 from DOAJ, and 302 from Google Scholar, all organized following PRISMA guidelines, with a PRISMA chart detailing the article count and screening process (Figure 1).



RESULTS

The data synthesis method used in this study involves collecting and summarizing publications that meet the inclusion criteria into a structured table. This table displays information on the titles, findings, methodologies, and results of the 12 reviewed articles.

Table 3. Data Extraction

Author(s)/ Year	Title	Research Design	Objective	Sample Size	Conclusion
Michiru Kuramata, et.al/ 2022	Development and implementation of the maternal and child health Handbook in Angola	Descriptive report (Practice-based report, not empirical research study)	To document the development process, implementation strategies, challenges, and solutions during the rollout of the MCH Handbook Programme in Angola.	Not specified (focused on program description across three provinces: Luanda, Benguela, and Huambo)	The development and implementation of the MCH Handbook in Angola demanded continuous stakeholder engagement, participatory approaches, and adaptable strategies, fostering program ownership essential for sustainability and nationwide expansion.(Kuramata et al., 2022)
Rogie Royce Carandang, et.al/ 2022	Effects of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook and Other Home-Based Records on Mothers' Non-Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review	Systematic Review	To investigate the effects of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook and other home-based records on mothers' non-health outcomes such as communication, satisfaction, and mother-child bonding.	47 original research articles included (sample size varied across studies from 1 to 250,000 participants)	The MCH Handbook enhanced mother-child bonding and household communication, with mothers satisfied overall, though satisfaction varied with healthcare provider engagement, indicating a need for measures to improve home-based records. (Carandang et al., 2022)
Etsuko Nishimura, et.al/2023	Role of Maternal and Child Health Handbook on	Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	To assess and synthesize the role of the Maternal and	7 trials included (total 2643 women)	The MCH Handbook can boost maternal health service utilization, including

Author(s)/ Year	Title	Research Design	Objective	Sample Size	Conclusion
	Improving Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis		Child Health (MCH) Handbook in improving healthcare service utilization, behavior change, and health outcomes for women and children.		antenatal care visits and early breastfeeding initiation. It promotes women's autonomy, improves communication with healthcare providers, and encourages family support. However, many studies show high or unclear bias risks. Future research should assess the effectiveness of electronic MCH handbooks.(Nishimura et al., 2023)
Intan Kumalasari / 2024	Mothers' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Support from Health Workers Influencing The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook Utilization for Maternal and Child Health in Palembang	Quantitative cross-sectional study	To evaluate the utilization of the MCH Handbook and identify factors influencing its use among pregnant women and mothers with young children in Palembang City.	240 respondents (pregnant women and mothers with children aged 0–5 years)	The MCH Handbook improves maternal and child health, with higher utilization linked to mothers' knowledge, positive attitudes, and health worker support, highlighting the need for enhanced education and support programs.(Kumalasari, 2024)
Riski Novela Yenita, et.al/ 2022	Analysis of the Use of Mother and Child Health (MCH) Books by Pregnant Women in Controlling Stunting in the	Quantitative analytic research with cross-sectional approach	To determine the determinants associated with the use of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) book by pregnant	36 pregnant women	There is a significant relationship between knowledge, perception, family support, and the role of health workers with the use of the MCH book.. (Yenita et al., 2022a)

Author(s)/ Year	Title	Research Design	Objective	Sample Size	Conclusion
	Working Area of Koto Baru Community Health Center, Kuantan Singingi District		women in the Work Area of Koto Baru Health Center, Kuantan Singingi District		
Citra Dewi Fitri Setiani, et.al/ 2022	Effectiveness of MCH Handbook Development with the Addition of FPS Variables as an Early Detection for Pregnancy and Childbirth Complications	Research and Development (R&D) using Borg and Gall model	Develop an MCH handbook model incorporating new FPS factors to enhance pregnant women's understanding and improve early detection of high-risk pregnancy complications.	16 pregnant women (third trimester and postpartum mothers)	The addition of FPS variables to the MCH handbook was feasible and effective for early detection of pregnancy and childbirth complications. were effective. Overall, the new model improved screening for maternal health risks. (Setiani et al., 2022)
Queenita Anak Luta, et.al/ 2024	Usefulness of Antenatal Care Handbook: A Cross-Sectional Study of Mothers' Perspectives	Cross-sectional study	Assess the community's use of the MCH Handbook and its relationship with age and education among pregnant women in Brunei Darussalam.	73 pregnant women	Most mothers found the MCH Handbook useful, with age, education, and content preference influencing its use, highlighting the handbook's relevance despite the rise of digital resources.(Anak Luta et al., 2023a)
Mihaela Corina Radu, et.al/2024	Exploring Factors Influencing Pregnant Women's	Cross-sectional observational analytical	To identify specific variables that affect pregnant women's	1301 pregnant women	Women's decisions about midwifery care are influenced by age, education, marital status, and birth

Author(s)/ Year	Title	Research Design	Objective	Sample Size	Conclusion
	Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Midwifery Care in Romania: Implications for Maternal Health Education Strategies	survey	perceptions and attitudes towards midwifery care, with the aim to improve maternal health education and information strategies		experience; improving education and access can reduce cesarean reliance and promote woman-centered perinatal care.(Radu et al., 2024)
Siti Zakiah, et.al/ 2021	Analysis of Factors Influencing the Completeness of the MCH Handbook Document as an Early Detection of High-Risk Trimester III Pregnant Women by a Midwife in West Kotawaringin	Quantitative Cross-Sectional	To determine the effect of knowledge, workload, availability of tools, and facilities, and monitoring and evaluation by coordinating midwives on the completeness of MCH handbook documentation for pregnant women in the third trimester.	102 midwives	Knowledge, tool availability, and midwife monitoring significantly affect MCH handbook documentation completeness, with monitoring being most influential; mobile MCH interventions enhance antenatal and postnatal care, reducing neonatal mortality and supporting rural healthcare. (Zakiah et al., 1970)
Ruoyan Gai Tobe, et.al/ 2022	Maternal and Child Health Handbook to Improve Continuum of Maternal and Child Care in Rural Bangladesh: Findings of a Cluster Randomized Controlled	Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)	(RCT) To assess the effectiveness of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook enhanced by a mobile platform in improving the continuum of care (CoC) for	3,002 pregnant women	The interventions (MCH with and without mobile platform) significantly improved the utilization of antenatal care, facility-based delivery, and postnatal care, with the MCH + mobile platform intervention

Author(s)/ Year	Title	Research Design	Objective	Sample Size	Conclusion
	Trial		maternal and child health in rural Bangladesh		showing the highest effectiveness. (Gai Tobe et al., 2022)
Olukunmi Omobolanle Balogun, et.al/ 2023	Effectiveness of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook for Improving Continuum of Care and Other Maternal and Child Health Indicators: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial in Angola	Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)	To assess the effect of a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) handbook intervention package on the continuum of maternal and child health care and health outcomes for mothers and children in Angola	9039 women (3774 in intervention group, 5265 in control group)	The study suggests that MCH handbooks can promote early antenatal care initiation but may require a more comprehensive approach for improving full continuum of care. (Balogun et al., 2023)
Shaira Wignarajah, et.al/ 2022	The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook and Its Influence on Health Behaviors: A Literature Review	Literature Review	To evaluate the effectiveness of the MCH Handbook in influencing health behaviors among pregnant women, including improvements in immunization, breastfeeding, nutrition, and child development	17 articles reviewed (no direct sample size)	The MCH Handbook is an effective tool that positively influences maternal and child health behaviors, such as increasing immunization, promoting breastfeeding, improving nutrition, and facilitating better health practices..(Wignarajah et al., 2021a)

The 12 journals in this scoping study emphasize the MCH Handbook's crucial role in enhancing maternal and child health outcomes, showing its effectiveness in promoting

maternal health services like antenatal care, facility-based deliveries, and postnatal care, especially when integrated with mobile or digital tools (Gai Tobe et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the studies indicate that various factors influence the successful utilization of the MCH Handbook. These include health workers' knowledge and attitude (Kumalasari, 2024). The support provided by healthcare workers (Yenita et al., 2022b), and the availability of resources and facilities (Zakiah et al., 1970). Notably, factors such as knowledge, training, and workload among health workers, along with maternal education and support, were identified as key determinants of the effective use of the MCH Handbook (Kumalasari, 2024). Moreover, cultural beliefs, maternal literacy, and the support of family members were found to significantly influence the degree of utilization among mothers (Radu et al., 2024).

In conclusion, the MCH Handbook's effectiveness in improving maternal and child health relies on systemic factors such as health worker training, community involvement, and digital technology integration.

Table 4. Overview of the Research Outcomes (n = 12)

Indicator	Significance	
	N	Reference
Effectiveness and Utilization of the MCH Handbook in Improving Maternal and Child Health Outcomes	4	(Kuramata et al., 2022) (Carandang et al., 2022) (Nishimura et al., 2023) (Wignarajah et al., 2021a)
Factors Influencing MCH Handbook Utilization and Its Impact	4	(Kumalasari, 2024) (Yenita et al., 2022b) (Setiani et al., 2022) (Anak Luta et al., 2023b)
MCH Handbook Implementation, System Strengthening, and Technological Integration	4	(Radu et al., 2024) (Zakiah et al., 1970) (Gai Tobe et al., 2022) (Balogun et al., 2023)

The research titled "The Effectiveness of Mother Class to Improve Utilization of Maternal and Child Health Handbook" aims to assess the effectiveness of mother classes in improving the utilization of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook in Brunei

Darussalam. These results indicate that mother classes can strengthen communication between mothers and healthcare providers, while also improving the utilization of the MCH Handbook in enhancing maternal and child health outcomes (Wijhati, 2021). This study aligns with the theme "Effectiveness and Utilization of the MCH Handbook in Improving Maternal and Child Health Outcomes" by emphasizing the role of community-based education in enhancing understanding and use of the MCH Handbook, enabling mothers to adopt healthier behaviors and improve health outcomes (Wijhati, 2021).

The study found that while 52.9% of pregnant women in Sumberjaya used the MCH Handbook for information, its potential as a health education tool remains underutilized, particularly among those with low educational backgrounds (Purwati et al., 2023).

The study shows that counseling with the MCH Handbook significantly improves mothers' knowledge and attitudes toward monitoring their toddlers' growth, highlighting its effectiveness as an educational tool (Purbowati et al., 2020).

The study titled "Factors Related to Utilization of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook Data by Midwives" highlights that midwives' perceptions, skills, motivation, and attitudes significantly influence the effective use of MCH Handbook data, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to improve maternal and child health outcomes (Dharmawan et al., 2021).

This study relates to the theme "Factors Influencing MCH Handbook Utilization and Its Impact" by highlighting how midwives' characteristics and the healthcare environment affect the handbook's effective use, with improved understanding and facilities leading to better health outcomes. Additionally, the study "Analysis of Factors Influencing the Completeness of the MCH Handbook Document" shows that midwives' knowledge, available tools, and supervision significantly impact the completeness of documentation essential for monitoring third-trimester maternal health (Zakiah et al., 1970).

The study "Maternal and Child Health Using the Digitalization of the MCH Handbook at Paciran Primary Health Care" demonstrates that digitalization improves midwives' performance and enhances maternal-child health services through better data management and real-time access to patient information (Rizki Amalia et al., 2025). Similarly, the scoping review "Digital Health Technologies for Maternal and Child Health in Africa and Other Low- and Middle-Income Countries" highlights the potential of digital health technologies to improve maternal and child health outcomes while addressing challenges such as infrastructure and data privacy, focusing on health education, community involvement, and culturally

appropriate designs (Till et al., 2023). Furthermore, integrating technology in health education and service delivery, as seen with the MCH Handbook, is crucial for raising awareness and improving the use of interventions like ITNs and IPTp. Utilizing technology for data collection and health education can significantly enhance the monitoring and effectiveness of programs aimed at supporting pregnant women (Aoki et al., 2025).

The review emphasizes that the MCH Handbook empowers women by educating them about their health and the health of their children, helping them make informed decisions. The study also highlights the need for culturally appropriate, locally relevant content and continued innovation in the MCH Handbook's format, including the exploration of digital versions to enhance its accessibility and effectiveness. This review aligns with the theme "MCH Handbook Implementation, System Strengthening, and Technological Integration" by showing how the integration of the MCH Handbook into health systems can improve maternal and child health outcomes through better communication, education, and care continuity (Wignarajah et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

The scoping review "Health Workers' Compliance and Pregnant Women's Perceptions of the MCH Handbook" underscores the importance of health workers' adherence to guidelines and pregnant women's perceptions in the handbook's effectiveness. It finds that compliance among health workers is affected by factors like training, workload, organizational support, and motivation, while pregnant women's views are influenced by their health literacy, cultural beliefs, and previous healthcare experiences. The review calls for targeted interventions that improve both healthcare providers' knowledge and attitudes and pregnant women's perceptions to enhance the MCH Handbook's utilization, thereby improving maternal and child health outcomes. Strengthening communication between health workers and pregnant women and addressing compliance barriers will lead to more effective use of the handbook in maternal care.

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