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# The Meaning of Support: A Husband Perspective of Women Cancer Survivor

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Abstract: Women's long journey as cancer survivors makes them need husband's support. However, it was found that the wife felt the support received was less effective and the husband did not fulfill his wishes, even though the husband considered the support provided to be adapted to his wife's needs. So there is a difference in understanding related to the support given by the husband with the support received by the wife. This study aims to determine the definition of husband's support for his wife as a cancer survivor from the husband's perspective. This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. The samples obtained were 7 people. Data collection techniques using interviews and field notes. The data analysis used is the Miles and Huberman model. The results of the study found 3 themes, namely the definition of husband's support, the reason for the husband to provide support and the form of support. 6 participants know the definition of husband's support and the rest do not know. There is one reason the husband provides support. The form of support provided by the husband is instrumental, informative, emotional, appreciation, monitoring, prioritizing and trusting the wife. Each husband has a different perspective both in defining support, reasons for giving support and efforts to support his wife. Nurses and wives are expected to understand each other's perspectives because the differences that occur cannot be generalized.

Keywords: Husband Perspective, Husband Support, The Meaning, Women Cancer Survivors

## INTRODUCTION

The incidence of cancer has increased by 0.4 per 1000 population in the last 5 years. Central Java is ranked 10th with the most cancer cases and cancer is more common in women than men with a total of 2.9 per 1000 population (Indonesian Ministry of Health, 2019). Seeing this, the journey as a cancer survivor is not easy. such as women's efforts to fight illness starting from being diagnosed, undergoing treatment, to returning to a new life within the scope of family and society, this makes women experience psychological problems such as fear, anger, stress, depression to despair due to the diagnosis received, and side effects (nausea, vomiting, constipation, decreased appetite, skin toxicity, fatigue and others) (Herfiana & Arifah, 2019; Wardani & Ambarwati, 2017). Treatment and fatigue that requires women to bed rest (Liao et al., 2017; Merlitha & Oktaviana, 2018). Not only that, women also experience limitations in carrying out their role as a wife in taking care of and serving their families, especially husbands (Gao et al., 2019).

Husband's support is very important apart from being the main intervention and a significant order, husband's support also has a big impact on solving problems experienced by the wife, both physically and psychologically (Black & Hawks, 2014). Husband's support has an impact on increasing motivation, enthusiasm, self-esteem and being able to reduce the pressure experienced by the wife (Suyanti et al., 2018). However, based on the findings of the pre-survey, in the cancer group, the interview results found that the wife received less effective support, such as the husband only paying for it and recommending to check his wife's condition to the hospital without accompanying her. In addition, the wife also revealed that her husband did not fulfill his desires in shopping and

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gathering with friends when he was sick because he did not have the money.

Nurhidayati & Rahayu, (2017) in their research stated that the instrumental support provided by the husband was by reminding the treatment schedule, dropping off and waiting for the wife during chemotherapy and having a selective attitude in regulating the wife's diet, with instrumental support indirectly helping to meet the wife's needs. Research by Dewi et al., (2017) says that husbands need to provide instrumental support in terms of financial support.

Good and appropriate support according to the husband is to always support the treatment process even though the husband cannot accompany his wife to the hospital due to work factors. Seeing the phenomena that occur, there are differences in understanding regarding the support given by the husband with the support received by the wife, so that there is a discrepancy with the wife's expectations regarding the support that will be given by the husband with the reality that occurs. Based on the explanation above, it is necessary to examine the "Definition of Husband's Support to Wives as Cancer Survivors: The Husband's Perspective"

#### **METHODS**

This type of research is qualitative with a phenomenological approach. This research was conducted in the homes of each participant, especially in the Banyumas area, Central Java, Indonesia. The research took place from March 1 to August 16, 2021. The sample used in this study was husband and wife as cancer survivors and 7 participants were found using purposive sampling technique, where a sample was taken based on certain considerations, so the researchers set inclusion criteria including: 1) husband has a wife as a cancer survivor; 2) Husband can speak Indonesian or Javanese well; 3) Husband is willing to be a participant and has signed an informed consent form as well as exclusion criteria such as: 1) Husband who works out of town; 2) Husband is not willing to be a participant. Unstructured interviews and field notes were used by researchers to collect data. Data collection was carried out for 30 minutes.

The instruments used in the researcher are interview guides, questionnaires to find out demographic data of husband and wife's medical and voice recording devices using recording cellphones. The interview guide has been prepared by the researcher who asked "what is your perception of the definition of husband's support?" and "what is the reason you give support to his wife?" and adopting questions from previous researchers, namely Schulz & Scwarzer (2004) regarding the form of support provided by the husband where the researcher asked "what kind of support have you given to your wife so far?". The interview process in this study was not carried out using the probing technique. Data analysis was carried out following the Miles and Huberman model, where when the researcher asked several questions and if there were unsatisfactory answers, the researcher asked questions again until the desired data was obtained. After the data was obtained, the researcher first conducted verbatim which changed the audio data into a script/text (interview transcript). Then the researcher coded the data by determining the code, grouping it into categories and themes. After that, the researcher will conduct an analysis following the Miles and Huberman model starting from data reduction, data display (presenting data) and conclusion drawing (drawing conclusions). Trust in qualitative research data in this study by extending observations and using reference materials, namely interview recordings.

#### **RESULTS**

# Demography Section.

Based on the data that has been obtained through the husband's demographic data questionnaire of the seven participants, participant characteristics as follows

Table 1. Demography Section

No	Characteristics	Count	Percent (%)
1	Age		
	a. 40-60 years	5	71.4
	b. > 60 years	2	28.6
2	Ethnic group		
	a. Jawa	7	100
	b. Luar Jawa	0	0
3	Profession		
	a. Entrepreneur	4	57.1
	b. Trader	1	14.3
	c. Farmer	1	14.3
	d. Civil Servant	1	14.3
4	Level of education		
	a. Basic Education	2	28.6
	b. Middle Education	1	14.3
	c. Higher Education	4	57.1
5	Cancer Type		
	a. Breast Cancer	5	71.4
	b. Cervical Cancer	1	14.3
	c. Endometrial Cancer	1	14.3
	Total	7	100

From the data, it is found that they have an age range of 42-69 years. All participants came from Javanese ethnicity and more than half of them had jobs as self-employed entrepreneurs (4 people), the rest were traders, farmers and civil servants (1 person each). Of the seven participants, there were only 2 people who had basic education levels, while the other participants had secondary and higher education levels (1 and 4 people). In addition, the questionnaire data related to the wife's medical data obtained that most of the participants' wives were breast cancer survivors (5 people).

## **Husband Support**

The following is a summary of the themes that have been obtained through the results of the interviews. The stages of theme formation in this study consisted of three themes, namely the definition of husband's support, reasons for giving support and forms of support. If the participant answers the question with the answer 1) part of the husband's obligations; 2) support the wife for the sake of the children; 3) husband and wife as a unit; 4) put in maximum effort; 5) goal orientation; 6) the orientation of the wife's needs are met; 7) give according to the husband's ability and 8) do not know the support, this shows that the answer is in the theme of the definition of husband's support.

# Theme 1: Definition of Husband's Support

Of the seven participants, 6 participants were able to define husband's support and 1 participant who did not know the definition of husband's support. The husband's views on the

definition of support from one to seven participants varied, such as there were husbands who defined support as part of the husband's obligation, supporting his wife for the sake of the children, husband and wife as a unit, trying their best, goal-oriented, oriented to wife's needs. fulfilled, supported by giving according to the ability of her husband and one participant who did not know the definition of support. the following is the expression of each participant:

- "It is my obligation, in religion, indeed, the husband is obliged to provide physical and spiritual support for his wife and family..." (P06)
- "...the second, stronger reason is that I have a child that I told my in-laws earlier I didn't want my child to grow up without his mother being accompanied by those 2 reasons, I lost money, I can find it again, my child loses his wife, I can find it again, children who lost their mother can't find it anymore..."

  (P06)
- "...as a husband, the wife is the support, right, madam, the family must be supported or encouraged, while a husband cannot stand alone without his wife..." (P03)
- "...already know we all definitely don't exist, that's for sure now, because of the eee shape, everyone definitely doesn't exist, so we give our best to the wife..." (P07)
- "... the support that supports the wife so that we don't despair, that's why we support it from outside and from within, physically and mentally we support it so that it's okay to give up easily because despair is dangerous.." (P01)
- "...hehehe, if it's support in my opinion, eee support, yes support in the sense of eee what is the wife's need then we fulfill it, that is support according to my version hahaha..." (P07)
- "...yes... as long as I can afford it, hehehe... If you buy it, for example, if I shop once, I can only afford 10 million, I spend 10 million. But not more, because my ability is only 10 million. It is a form of attention..." (P02)

In contrast to one of the other participants who did not know the support itself, the husband felt confused to explain how the definition of support, as has been conveyed as follows:

"...support... what is it, I'm confused hahaha..." (P04)

#### Theme 2: Reasons for Husbands to Support

Husbands have their own reasons for supporting their wives, this reason was found in one participant who revealed that supporting his wife was because it was a form of worshiping himself with the creator.

"...that's why I'm happy, it's not difficult, it's not difficult, I'm just happy because this is from God, I only worship to take care of him, because God is like that..." (P01)

#### Theme 3: Forms of Support

It was found that husbands provide support by accompanying their wives, meeting their needs and providing health insurance as a form of instrumental support. This was conveyed by several participants as follows:

- "...that's why I also said that to my wife, this is chemo, oh, just do it, dad, I can't eat (my wife said), you have to eat even if you vomit, you just have to eat, I'll wait for it to run out..." (P06)
- "... there are many examples, yes, before being sick, the needs are normal, but after being sick, you need nutrition, etc., diapers that you have to buy every day, etc., milk and so on..." (P07)
- "...yes, I made it, from the start, since the first BPJS was there, I anticipated, anticipating that this is the best for health care, right, miss..." (P03)

Husbands also try to provide informative support by seeking information and giving advice by directing their wives. The following are the expressions of each participant:

- "...even I asked these people what is the cure for this disease? Oh, I usually use this..." (P01)
- "...I read the article on the compass, then let's go to the doctor when we are fasting..." (P06)
- "...because I can't directly determine this, it's better to have this doctor, so if I can I just direct..." (P03)

Based on the data, it was found that the husband's efforts to understand the wife's condition, accept

the wife's condition, provide a sense of comfort, motivate the wife, help solve problems, and provide external support as a form of emotional support. This was conveyed by several participants:

- "...sometimes I want to do that, but we don't know what the condition in the body is like, but at least we can minimize it, right, because the patient's mind must have been... Already messed up, it must be everywhere..." (P05)
- "... on the one hand I don't really care about your changes, that's for sure, right, you already have mine, so whatever happens, what are you going to do ..." (P05)
- "...Yes, this is what is happening now (pointing at the plants that are around him), he is happy, even though I feel disturbed but not bothered. ..." (P02)
- "...but later, you don't have to think about it, everything will pass. You will suddenly finish the surgery, suddenly 2 years later it turns out that it's true now, how many years later, 10 years later, it's already passed, that's when he was operated on in chemo so to motivate... (P06)
- "...if I give motivation to my wife not in the form of words but direct action and real to eee, what the heck is taking care of, not the meaning of "come on ma'am!" with words no, but with actions..." (P07)
- "...that's why I insisted on taking him to doctor L at that time, we finally canceled and I looked for info on where the most qualified (doctor) in the area around Central Java, it turned out that in Jogja it was Doctor T, Doctor T happened to be the head of the oncology installation at that time. at sardjito hospital..." (P06)
- "...but coincidentally, his friends also support and even provide a solution by providing wigs. Even from his friends, yes because his friends also support it and I already know that support is not only from family but from friends too, there are many who support it and even give motivation, although I am also sure that this stage can still be treated...." (P02)
- "...I don't think there's any limit, but not for now because everyone is different, like someone coming home from illness (hospital) doesn't want to come closer, so instead of getting hurt later, because it's clear that people who are kept away from others will get hurt, thinking why you don't want to say hello to me, it will make you uncomfortable, so instead of suffering, it's better not to..." (P01)

Not only that, it was found that the husband also gave appreciation support through efforts to give praise, replace the role of the wife and take care of his wife. The following are the expressions of each participant:

- "...after that only yesterday at my son's house there I said "siki dadi lemu (now so fat) mah and makin awet enom (stay young)" hahaha so young ..." (P01)
- "...nothing at all, it's even normal, but when there is a lump in the back (pointing to the rectal area). yes, most of them are given medicine and smeared..." (P04)
- "... it can be said that it is heavy, it means that we have to go back and forth from home to the hospital to take care of the children so we can eat, while at home we have to be full too, so that is also something eee support in the sense that eee is not what is needed as a wife but needed in the household..." (P07)

Husbands were found to provide other support outside of the forms of support contained in the previous theory (instrumental, informative, emotional and rewarding) such as the husband providing support by monitoring his wife starting from activities, symptoms and treatment, trusting his wife and prioritizing his wife. this was conveyed from the participants as follows:

- "...I keep, beyond my wife's knowledge, I keep monitoring. I just saw that resting was not difficult, so I saw that during the day she sometimes had time to sleep for a while, then at night it was always easy to sleep..." (P02)
- "...finally, lastly, the last thing I caught was in the bathroom I saw there was ice water, he forgot maybe he put it back in the fridge, I said what is this, what is this?! (ask my wife, this is what Mr. W said I was compressing because it was red, wow I panicked it was red ... I immediately asked the truth, where is the doctor there or not? It turns out that there is no doctor at Pak W's place..." (P06)
- "...Yes, sometimes I'm already sleeping, at 9 am already taking medicine at 9..." (P01)
- "...yes, after all, how many years of marriage have I been, what is the mate, if you don't believe it, it means you're lying..." (P04)

"... also before, there was a brother, eeee, who offered me (a job) but the conditions were far away in Salatiga, automatically, the wife was left with a time that we couldn't decide whether it would be a month, two months, three months, we don't know and it's mandatory for new people, it's not that easy old people to commute, so I'm more burdensome to my wife than to work, let's just say bismillah..." (P05)

#### **DISCUSSION**

# Theme 1. Definition of Husband's Support

Husbands have their own views on the definition of support and it varies from individual to individual. The existence of differences in views that arise is a natural thing, this is because in a family, each individual has a different background, character and culture Maloko & Rahman, (2020). There are husbands who think that supporting their wives is an obligation and husbands are responsible for fulfilling physical and spiritual needs and for the welfare of their wives. A husband or head of household has big responsibilities, main duties and important roles in his family, starting from leading the family, educating his wife and children, providing support to each family member to making decisions. On the findings Wulandari et al., (2019) stated that the husband is someone who is considered to have full responsibility in the family, besides that the husband also has an important role in earning a living, providing motivation and deciding policies in his family.

Another view emerges where the husband considers supporting his wife for the sake of his children. The husband feels that every child needs a mother and the position of a mother cannot be replaced by anyone. In essence, in the family it is not only the father who has a role but the mother also plays a role such as taking care of the house and also shaping the character of the child. Abdul, (2020) stated that the main educators in the family environment are fathers and mothers, both of whom must synergize together in creating quality informal education for children. Mothers themselves have a crucial role in the child's informal success or the formation of a good personality in children.

Not only children who need the presence of a mother, it turns out that husbands also need the presence of a wife. Seen the relationship that occurs between husband, wife and children, they are like a unified system that needs each other. Proven by Wijayanti, (2016), a system is a unit that is connected by function, in which the interdependence of each part. This relationship is also seen in previous studies, where husbands need wives because of the role of the wife towards her husband. where the husband considers maintaining the health of his wife (supporting) is the most important effort for the welfare of his family due to the important role of women at home, especially for the husband (biological needs of men) (Adegboyega et al., 2019).

With this view, the support provided will be better because the husband feels he needs his wife and will also have a good impact on the wife. Princess, (2017) in his research which states that it is not uncommon for wives to experience despair to undergo treatment, but with continuous social support, especially husbands, participants are able to survive following existing treatment. In supporting the wife, the husband also strives to the maximum, this happens because the husband himself has the principle that all living things are not eternal. With the maximum support given by the husband, it will strengthen the wife to continue to strive for her recovery, by complying with treatment and continuing to struggle in every process of becoming a cancer survivor. Sundari & Setiawati, (2018) stating the magnitude of a support contribution of a person can strengthen the reasons for others to behave.

On the other hand, in defining goal-oriented husband support, the husband argues that in defining support, it is not easy for the wife to give up. Mohdari et al., (2016) said where the worst impact experienced by the wife as a cancer survivor is when she experiences despair, which makes the wife not want to carry out breast cancer treatment, therefore it is necessary to have good support from the husband to minimize negative feelings that occur to the wife. With the support provided by

the husband, it will help the wife to avoid feelings of despair and obey the treatment that supports the wife's recovery as a cancer survivor.

In addition, the husband also has other orientations such as being oriented to the needs of his wife. According to the husband what the wife's needs must be met. In line with research conducted by Nurhidayati & Rahayu, (2017), the husband provides support by meeting the wife's needs such as eating, drinking and even other basic health needs. This will indirectly make the wife happy because she feels cared for by fulfilling her needs. Susanti, (2017) in his research also stated that the support provided by the husband will help the wife to gain self-confidence and lead to happiness, this occurs due to the release of endorphrine hormones that affect the hypothalamus, resulting in increased appetite, better sleep, reduced stress and increased immunity. In essence, the wife has her own needs and will be different for each individual, but there are other views that emerge in this study where meeting the needs of the wife is also adjusted to the ability of the husband. The ability of each husband is different and cannot be generalized. In line with other researchers, husbands have their own limitations, such as when the husband cannot take his wife to the hospital (Wijayanti, 2016).

Another difference was also found in one of the participants in this study who did not know the definition of support. The husband is confused when he expresses the definition of husband's support. Researchers assume this may be caused by several factors, one of which is the level of education, because based on demographic data, the husband has a basic education level. This will affect the availability of information received about the description of a previous support. Parapat et al., (2016) in his research also states that the level of education in a person can support the level of knowledge, such as low levels of education associated with limited information and knowledge as well. Although in this study the husband did not know the definition of support, the husband still tried to provide support and meet the needs of his wife. In line with previous research where husbands have minimal knowledge of cancer, but they try to provide support to recommend hospitals to see their wife's condition and carry out treatment (Adegboyega et al., 2019).

#### Theme 2. Reasons for Husbands to Support

In providing support someone has its own reasons. One reason is found that husbands provide support to their wives, namely because supporting their wives is a form of worship to the creator. With this reason, it turns out that the husband is not burdened as a supporter. Seeing this reason is closely related to the feeling of acceptance and sincerity in providing support such as caring for and meeting the needs of the wife.

Being the husband of a wife as a cancer survivor also has its own burdens that will trigger psychological problems, namely depression (Haj Mohammad et al., 2015) This is due to the fact that husbands have to take care of and deal with changes in their wives, while husbands also have different perceptions, abilities and experiences, not to mention fatigue due to work or taking care of the house, so this can cause distress (worried, afraid, confused), but with an attitude of acceptance it will help the husband's psychological condition to be calmer and better, as in this study the husband felt happy in making efforts to support his wife. This is in line with evidence in other studies where the element of spirituality plays the most important role in husbands to prevent psychological deficits due to breast cancer that occurs in their wives, through acceptance that can help husbands avoid negative feelings that might worsen the welfare of their wives and husbands (Yusoff et al., 2012).

#### Theme 3. Forms of Support

As it is known that there are several forms of husband support given to his wife. The forms of support found in this study are also subdivided into several forms, namely instrumental, informative, emotional and reward support. In this study, the husband's effort to provide instrumental support is to provide assistance to his wife such as accompanying the wife to control and waiting for her to finish food when the wife's condition is not good, for example the wife is vomiting.

The husband also fulfills his wife's material needs, including wife's nutrition, milk, honey and diapers and provides health insurance. Several expressions emerged regarding the reasons for the husband providing health insurance, such as to anticipate if one day the wife needs medical treatment and the husband is also willing to pay for health insurance on a regular basis. This is in line with research Dewi et al., (2017) who said that her husband provided financial support by maintaining a healthy diet, advocating taking vitamins and even doing exercise. Equipped by Nurhidayati & Rahayu, (2017) stated that the instrumental support provided by the husband is by reminding the treatment schedule, dropping off and waiting for the wife during chemotherapy and having a selective attitude in regulating the wife's diet, with instrumental support indirectly helping to meet the wife's needs.

The results of this study also show that husbands provide informative support to their wives by seeking information about cancer and its treatment from various media, such as mass media, namely YouTube, print media such as articles, even husbands also ask other people and also ask the husband's extended family. Another attempt occurred when the husband had to determine the wife's treatment, which tried not to press the choice but only gave advice in the form of directions for some treatment for his wife. As in Widiasih & Nelson, (2018) the husband also suggested that the wife maintains physical fitness by exercising, resting so as not to be tired and taking care of eating such as not eating spicy food and eating healthy.

Equipped by Winters-Stone et al., (2016) where the husband participates in seeking information related to treatment and making decisions in choosing health facilities or treatment for cancer survivors from oncologists, friends and family who are experts in their fields. Information support for cancer survivors is very much needed, because with the availability of access to information, it can help cancer survivors in maintaining their quality of life, meeting psychological, affective and cognitive needs, even though the sources of information obtained will vary, both from the environment and even family (Witdiawati et al., 2018).

The husband in this study was not only focused on physical support, but also cared about his wife's psychological needs emotionally as a form of emotional support. The husband tries to understand his wife by trying to minimize the things that disturb the wife's mind. In essence, the husband is aware that he does not know for sure how things actually happen to his wife's body, which is why the husband chooses to try to minimize the things that disturb his wife's mind. Proven in research Rahman et al., (2019) When an individual experiences a disease, it will cause a positive or negative psychological response, resulting in various feelings and reactions to stress, frustration, anxiety, etc., the individual also needs time to master his emotions. So husbands need to help minimize negative feelings that arise. The husband's efforts in understanding the changes experienced by his wife will also help foster good self-coping (courage) for the wife of cancer survivors in dealing with their illness (Kang & Suh, 2015).

Another effort is that the husband also accepts the changes that occur in his wife and does not care about it, the husband feels that the wife is his so that whatever happens the husband is ready to accept. As happened in research Montford et al., (2016) it was found that the husband was aware of the changes that had occurred in his partner, but the husband accepted the situation even when the wife felt unable to correct the changes.

The husband also provides comfort by appreciating what makes his wife happy, besides that the husband also motivates his wife by realizing that things that are happening right now don't need to be overly thought about, everything that is being fought for and experienced by his wife will pass just like that. Helping to solve problems by seeking information regarding the best medical personnel for the treatment of his wife is also another effort for husbands to provide emotional support. In line with research Mohdari et al., (2016) where the husband helps the wife by giving advice, helping find a way out, giving encouragement and this will have a good impact on the wife's psychology and be able to minimize negative feelings that arise.

The husband also provides external support by allowing his wife to socialize with the surrounding community through taking an active role in attending RT meetings, then the husband

also brings friends to help support his wife, the husband believes that this effort will increase enthusiasm through the motivation given by friends -her friend. American Psychiatric Association & Association, (2013) said the diagnosis received by cancer survivors was considered a traumatic event because cancer is a life-threatening disease, but the availability of support from friends turned out to have a positive impact on post traumatic growth (PTG) which will help cancer survivors find benefits, hope and meaning In life, this happens because friends can help solve the problems experienced by women cancer survivors through discussions about feelings or things they experienced while battling the disease, which may be when discussions with partners received insufficient information or support. (Hasson-Ohayon et al., 2016). Rahmadani, (2017) in his research states that being active in the community can also add its own motivation for women cancer survivors, through the available activities making negative feelings slowly improve into positive feelings (ready to accept pain, be patient and feel more cared for).

In contrast to other data results, in this study there are husbands who provide limits for their wives in socializing. However, this only happens at certain moments such as after returning from the hospital, because the husband is afraid that something will happen that makes his wife feel hurt due to negative views from society. In addition, after the operation, the husband felt that his wife still needed a break and would be allowed to return to society after the condition improved. It is this concern that makes husbands take the decision to temporarily limit the socialization of their wives, so that husbands do not necessarily limit them without their own reasons. As explained in the research Rahman et al., (2019), women as cancer survivors receive both physical and psychological side effects from the treatment they undergo, causing fear and needing time to adapt back to the changes that occur. On the other hand, other research confirms that changes that occur in the household make the burden of a husband's responsibility increase where the husband feels he is a single parent for a while while the wife is sick, so that feelings of worry and concern arise about the current condition of the wife. resulting in husbands limiting their wives to socialize (Kabir & Ariyani, 2016).

Another form of support provided by the husband is in the form of appreciation support. This support also focuses on the wife's psyche through positive awards given by her husband. Based on this research the husband gives praise to his wife, the husband also plays a role in replacing the wife's role by taking care of her child and delivering from the hospital to the house or vice versa and taking care of the wife starting from helping give ointments, smoothing the wife's food by blending it, bathing the wife, helping cleaning the rectal area to treating the IV while the wife is being treated in the hospital. In line with research Mohdari et al., (2016) the husband helps his wife's daily activities fully or partially, helps with household chores, educates children and takes care of children, and it turns out that with good support from the husband it affects the wife's physical health.

Reviewing the four forms of support above, the researcher also found new forms of support given by husbands outside of the existing theory (instrumental, emotional, rewarding and informative support). The findings show that there are forms of husband support such as monitoring the wife (activities, symptoms, and treatment), prioritizing the wife, and trusting the wife. In this study, the husband participated in monitoring activities such as the quality and quantity of his wife's sleep, the symptoms experienced by the wife such as the appearance of redness on the body and asking for the pain experienced, and the husband also monitored the wife's treatment by reminding her to take medication and doing laboratory checks. In line with research Mohdari et al., (2016) where the husband pays attention to his wife's food and drink intake and keeps the living environment safe from noise because the wife needs adequate rest so as to improve general conditions and reduce wife fatigue.

The next support is that the husband prioritizes taking care of his wife rather than choosing a job that requires going out of town. This is in line with research Nurjayanti, (2019) who found data that husbands chose to go home often even for a moment to see their wife's condition when her body felt weak. Powered by research Mohdari et al., (2016) When the wife experiences a critical illness such as breast cancer, there will be changes in the household, one of which is work. The husband must get used to it and still meet the additional medical expenses and other demands, but the husband still

tries to improve the quality of time with his partner, by changing the work schedule so that he can be with his wife, even though the husband is still worried about the impact of his absence from work.

In addition to prioritizing his wife, the husband also reflects on himself to believe in his wife. Husbands believe that due to the long age of marriage is proof that they have become God's decree (mate) and if the husband does not trust his wife, then it is the same as lying. On research Basir, (2019) explain where love and affection are needed in the household because it can give birth to happiness, mutual respect, mutual trust and help. Without love, a marriage will be destroyed and happiness will only be wishful thinking.

#### **CONCLUSION**

There were 3 themes in this study including the definition of husband's support, the reasons for the husband's support and the form of support given to his wife. Each husband has a different perspective in defining support, the reasons and forms of support that will be given are also different. there are 6 participants who can explain the definition of support and 1 participant does not know the definition of husband's support. The reason a husband supports his wife is to worship God. The forms of support provided by husbands vary, there are 4 forms of support based on theory, namely husbands provide instrumental, informative, emotional and appreciation support, besides that researchers also found other forms of support found in the field, namely husbands monitoring their wives (symptoms, activities and treatment), husbands prioritize wife and trust her.

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