



## Voices of Expecting Mother: A Qualitative Inquiry into Desired Features of Maternal Health Mobile Applications

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The maternal mortality rate in Indonesia remains high. Pregnant women often encounter various challenges, particularly in terms of obtaining information about nutrition during pregnancy, managing problems experienced during pregnancy, pregnancy schedules, and monitoring fetal development. Digital pregnancy health applications are considered a companion for expectant mothers to obtain information about their pregnancy, so that they can monitor their health development.

**Purpose:** To explore the needs of pregnant women regarding health applications that are needed as a means of maintaining health and preventing complications during pregnancy.

**Methods:** This qualitative phenomenological study was conducted in Kabupaten Tanah Laut, South Kalimantan, in October 2025 using focus group discussions (FGDs). Ten pregnant women were selected through criterion sampling. Data were collected through observation and semi-structured interviews during 60-90 minute FGDs and analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). Validity was ensured through credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability tests.

**Results:** The study identified six themes regarding the features needed in the application according to pregnant women, namely the experience of a risky pregnancy and the themes for information from the application, places to get help and information on pregnancy health, the need for information related to pregnancy from the application, the need for features in the pregnancy health application, the need for application security and validity, and expectations for the application for pregnant women.

**Conclusion:** There is a need to develop a pregnancy-friendly application that provides up-to-date pregnancy health information, fetal development monitoring, complication detection, and childbirth preparation support

Keywords: *Pregnant Women; Application Needs; Pregnancy Health, Digital Health; Qualitatif Research*