



Full Length Research Article

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UTILIZATION OF ANTENATAL CARE SERVICES AMONG THE ANC MOTHERS IN SELECTED RURAL AREAS OF SANGLI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Background: India has the dubious distinction of having the highest estimated number of maternal deaths in any country. In addition to the number of death each year. Over 50 million women suffer from maternal morbidity due to acute complications from pregnancy. For effective implementation of the programme understanding of the factors affecting the utilization of maternity care during pregnancy is required. Some antenatal care services provided by government of India through primary health center that includes antenatal assessment, provision for abdominal palpation, weight measurement, T.T vaccination, iron and folic acid supplement, treatment in prevention of anemia, management and referral of high risk pregnancies. The objective of the studies

- 1) To assess the knowledge and utilization of antenatal care services.
- 2) To assess the factors associated with utilization of antenatal care services.
- 3) To find out the association between knowledge score of ANC mothers with selected variables.

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INTRODUCTION

Antenatal care services utilization was generally good while the postnatal care given to newborn child was very low compared to other population groups in the region. Promoting women's education and behavioral change communication at grass root level, provision of the services at both home and health facilities, improving the quality and capacity of the health providers are some of the recommendations forwarded (World Health Organization, 2004). Adequate utilization of antenatal care services is associated with improved maternal and neonatal health outcomes. Antenatal care is expected to have impact on the development of fetus as well as mother and this can only be achieved through early booking and regular attendance of antenatal clinic. The trend of maternal mortality in developing countries has been increasing and various international organizations have reported that an important factor related to maternal and infant mortality has been linked to lack of antenatal care (Onasoga Olayinka, 2012,3). According to federal ministry of health (2005), some of the dangers of pregnancy and childbirth can be avoided if the pregnant women attends antenatal clinic regularly. In order to decrease these mortality rates, regular antenatal care has to be instituted

or reinforced which can only be achieved through identifying factors causing poor utilization of antenatal care services (Fantaye Chemir, 2007).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among the ANC mothers in selected rural areas of sangli district using pretested structured questionnaires were prepared for assessing the knowledge of antenatal services and checklist for finding the utilization and factors associated with antenatal services. The study population consisted of 50 antenatal mothers from Bhoose and Soni rural areas of sangli. Information was collected by interviewing study population using a structured proforma. It was ensured that respondents understood well the meaning of the questions. A detailed proforma containing section I-include demographic data framed for the purpose of capturing socio-demographic information of the study participants 9 items, and knowledge questionnaires 13 items and checklist 8 items regarding utilization of antenatal services and 12 items on factors associated with utilization of antenatal services. The questionnaire was pilot tested on 05 subjects and amended for clarity with the addition of some answer options and was modified accordingly. Interpretation of the collected data was done by using appropriate statistical methods like percentages and proportions.

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For comparison across the groups, Chi square test was used and $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Table -1 shows that most of the mother i.e. About 72% were in the age group of 21-25yrs, 32% of mother studied till secondary education and education of the husband is 36% upto higher secondary, the type of the family 92% were from joint family 94% of mothers are housewives, 38 % of family was in average family income per month is less than 2000 Rs, 84% of the families were from Hindu religion.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage of antenatal mothers by their demographic data

S.No.	Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age of the client.		
	a) <20 years	10	20%
	b) 21-25 years	36	72%
	c) 26-30 years	4	8%
	d) 31-35years.	0	0%
2	Education of client.		
	a) Illiterate.	1	2%
	b) Primary.	9	18%
	c) Secondary.	16	32%
	d) Higher secondary	13	26%
	e) Graduate and above	11	22%
3	Education of husband.		
	a) Illiterate.	0	0%
	b) Primary.	8	16%
	c) Secondary.	12	24%
	d) Higher secondary.	18	36%
	e) Graduate and above.	12	24%
4	Type of family		
	a) Nuclear	4	8%
	b) Joint	46	92%
	c) Extended	0	0%
5	Occupation of client.		
	a) Housewife.	47	94%
	b) Service.	1	2%
	c) Farming.	0	0%
	d) Labor work.	2	4%
6	Average family income per month		
	a) Less than 2000 per month.	19	38%
	b) 2001-5000 per month.	18	36%
	c) 5001-10000 per month.	8	16%
	d) More than 10001 per month.	5	10%
7	Parity.		
	a) 0	33	66%
	b) 1	12	24%
	c) 2	2	4%
	d) 3 and Above.	3	6%
8	Religion.		
	a) Hindu.	42	84%
	b) Muslim.	2	4%
	c) Christian.	3	6%
	d) Other(specify)	3	6%

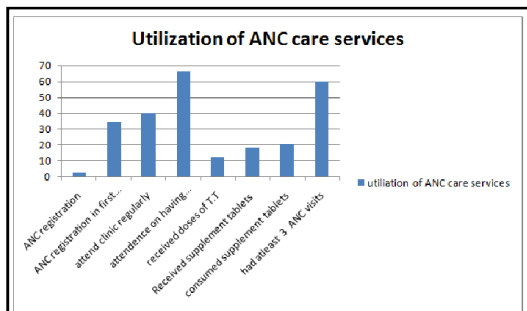


Fig. 1. Findings related to the utilization of antenatal care services

Table 2: Checklist related to factors influencing the utilization of ANC services

S.No.	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Financial \ affordability to health services.	Yes: 22 (44%), No: 28 (56%)	
2	Lack of knowledge of ANC services	Yes: 14 (28%), No: 36 (72%)	
3	Accompanying family member is available	Yes: 48 (96%), No: 2 (4%)	
4	transport facility available	Yes: 21 (42%), No: 29 (58%)	
5	Hospital facilities acceptable to family members or self	Yes: 48 (96%), No: 2 (4%)	
6	Tradition\cultural acceptance to health services	Yes: 49 (98%), No: 1 (2%)	
7	Advice from health workers regarding ANC services	Yes: 44 (88%), No: 6 (12%)	
8	Availability of facilities regarding health services	Yes: 49 (98%), No: 1 (2%)	
9	Language barrier	Yes: 45 (90%), No: 5 (10%)	
10	Religious acceptance of the services rendered	Yes: 48 (96%), No: 2 (4%)	
11	Husbands acceptance	Yes: 49 (98%), No: 1 (2%)	
12	Support of family	Yes: 45 (90%), No: 5 (10%)	

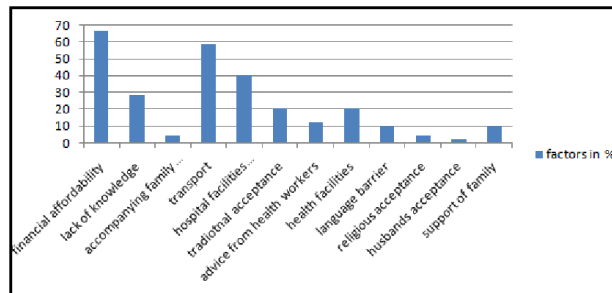


Fig. 2. Findings related to factors associated with utilization of antenatal care services

The above bar diagram shows (Fig. 1) 98% have done their ANC registration at the health centre, 66% have done their registration in their first trimester, 60% attend the ANC clinic regularly, 34% attend the ANC clinic on having complaints, 86% received T.T injections as per schedule, 82% received iron folic acid and calcium tablets, 80% consumed all received iron, folic acid, calcium tablets, 60% had at least 3 antenatal visits.

Table 3. Association between knowledge score of ANC mothers towards ANC services with selected variables

Sr. No	Variables	X ² - Chi-square	P value <0.05	Remarks
1	Age of the client	8.964	0.011	Significant association
2	Education of client	6.144	0.138	No association
3	Education of husband	2.457	0.659	No association
4	Type of family	0.000	0.986	No association
5	Average family income	7.709	0.021	Significant association
6	Parity	5.659	0.058	No association
7	Religion	6.878	0.123	No association

The above findings shows (Fig. 2) that age of the client and average family income had significant association with knowledge score of ANC mothers towards ANC services because p values is <0.05 .

Conclusion

The investigator felt that this study would help in developing the better understanding and provide baseline data on the utilization of ANC services and the factors associated with of utilization of antenatal care services among ANC mothers of selected rural areas of Sangli district.

Recommendations

- A similar study can be replicated on large samples; thereby samples can be generalized for large scale population.
- A similar study may be repeated with an experimental group to assess the factors associated with utilization of anc care services.
- A comparative study can be carried out to assess the knowledge and utilization of antenatal care services among rural area and urban area.
- A Self Instruction Module (SIM) can be prepared on the antenatal care services provided.

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