

A Study on Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Utilization of Maternal Health Care Services in Urban Community

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Abstract: Background: Even though the MMR dropped from 212 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007-09 to 178 in 2010-12, India is behind the target of 103 deaths per live births to be achieved by 2015 under the United Nations-mandated Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As per WHO, Three crucial factors understanding maternal deaths. Firstly lack of access and utilization of essential obstetric care. Secondly low social status of women in developing countries. Thirdly too much physical work together with poor diet also contributes to poor maternal outcomes. Out of these three factors, access and utilization of health care is the most crucial factor which is capable of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality. The present study was carried out to evaluate socio demographic correlates and barriers of maternal health care utilization in the urban community. **Objective:** To know the factors influencing the utilization of maternal health care services. **MATERIAL & METHODS;** Study design: Cross sectional study. Area of study: UHTC Kalal galli. Bijapur (Urban field practice area) Participants: All married woman in the age group of 15-45 years who were either pregnant at the time of interview or delivered within last one year were included in the study. Study period: January to March 2015 Sample size: 134 mother Methods: Interview technique using pre tested Proforma. Statistical analysis: Percentage and chi-square test. Result: Utilization of maternal health services was found more among literate (70%) mothers compared to illiterate mothers. Utilization of maternal health services increased with increase in economic status. Major reasons for non-utilization of maternal service were not having a delivery complication in the past. (57%) Conclusion: The result reveals that educational level of women, exposure to mass media, birth order and wealth index are significant predictors in explaining the use of maternal health care services. There is a need of motivation and enhancing IEC activities for bringing desirable changes in the health care practice of the mother.

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INTRODUCTION:

Maternal health is one of the major development issues globally. Maternal mortality and morbidity impacts on families, communities and societies at large, and has far reaching effects across socio-economic field. In spite of the relative good health facilities in urban areas, compared to rural areas not all components of the services are of good quality and reasonable to ensure access to proper maternal health to urban population.

Maternal health is not only needed as a basis for social harmony and economic productivity, it also reduces costs and burdens to families, communities, service providers and the Treasury. Smart investments in maternal health backing health systems overall, and increase cost-effectiveness of resources allocated to the health sector. (Agarwal Paras, 2012)

Full antenatal care has been defined as at least three antenatal care visits, consumed 90+ Iron and Folic Acid tablets and two or more tetanus toxoid injections taken. (WHO, 2006) Although the MMR dropped from 212 deaths per 100,000 live births in

2007-09 to 178 in 2010-12, India is behind the target of 103 deaths per live births to be achieved by 2015 under the United Nations-mandated Millennium Development Goals. (WHO,2006)

The utilization of maternal healthcare is a complex phenomenon influenced by several factors. Several studies from developing countries have recognized socioeconomic factors and service delivery environment as important determinants of healthcare utilization. Quality of care, distance to health facility, lack of transport, women's low social status, age, caste, religion, educational level, economic status of the household, lack of autonomy and decision-making power and cultural norms are some of the factors that have been found to be associated with the utilization maternal care services use in different settings. (Joshi2014). The present study was undertaken with an objective to estimate the level of utilization of antenatal services and its associated with socio demographic factors among urban women in the reproductive age group.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The present study was conducted in UHTC Kalalgalli, urban field practice area of Department of Community Medicine, B. L.D. University's Shri B.M.Patil Medical College Vijayapur during January-March 2015. All married women in the age group of 15-45 years who had delivered within the last one year were included in the study. A total of 134 such women identified by door to door survey. These women were interviewed using a pre structured interview schedule including identification data, socio demographic profile, and details of antenatal care, delivery, post natal care and assumed barriers for non-utilization of maternal health care services. Data was expressed in percentage. Chi-Square test was used for evaluating association between the variables. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethical Committee and oral informed consent was obtained from mothers who participated in the study.

RESULT

Table 1 Socio Economic and Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Maternal Factors		Number	Percentage
Maternal Age	15-19	24	18
	20-24	50	37
	25-29	40	30
	30-34	15	11
	35-39	05	04
Literacy Status	Illiterate	23	17
	Primary	36	27
	Secondary	69	52
	College	06	04
Socio-Economic Status	Class- I	05	04
	Class- II	16	12
	Class- III	30	22
	Class- IV	35	26
	Class- V	48	36
Religion	Hindu	98	73
	Muslim	36	27
Type of Family	Nuclear	83	62
	Joint	51	38

Majority of the women 50(37%) were in the age group of 20-24 years. Nearly 3/4th (73%) of the women belonged to Hindu families and 27% were Muslim. 62% of women belonged to Nuclear families as against 38% were living in Joint Families. Study reveals that out of 134 women, 83% of women (111) were literate. 94% of women are engaged in house hold work, and only 6% women were employed. Majority of women (84%) belonged to the low socio economic class families.

Table No 2 Utilizations as per literacy status of women

Literacy status	Utilization	Non Utilization
Illiterate	8 (35%)	15 (65%)
Primary	22(61%)	14 (39%)
Middle school	29(71%)	12(29%)
High school	21 (75%)	07(25%)
College	06(100%)	00(0%)
Total	86(64%)	48(36%)

P=0.0063

Utilization of maternal services & levels of education had linear relationship. Maximum utilization i.e., 75% & 100% respectively for maternal health care was found among women who had completed high school & college education. The association between the literacy status & utilization of maternal health services was found to be statistically significant.

Table No.3 Utilization as per economic status of women

Economic class	Utilized	Non utilized
Class -I	5(100%)	-
Class -II	12(75%)	4 (25%)
Class -III	21 (70%)	9 (30%)
Class -IV	22 (63%)	13 (37%)
Class -V	26 (54%)	22 (46%)
Total	86	48

P=0.2903

Study reveals that utilization of maternal health services increased with increase in the economic status. There is a positive association between utilization of maternal health care & economic status.

Table No.4 Utilization in relation to occupation of the mother

Occupation	Utilized	Non utilized
House wife	78 (62%)	48 (38%)
Working	8 (100)	-
Total	86	48

p=0.293

It is well known that increased income has a positive effect on the utilization of modern health care services. Results from this study indicates that utilization of maternal health services was found more in working women 100% compare to housewives.

Table No.5. Utilization in relation to type of family

Type of family	Utilized	Non utilized
Joint	26 (51%)	25 (49%)
Nuclear	60 (72%)	23 (28%)
Total	86	48

P=0.0125

Majority of women (72%) belongs to Nuclear families had availed maternal health care services compared to women belonging to Joint families.

DISCUSSION

The present study reveals that utilization of maternal health care was found more among literate. The education of adolescent mothers is also associated with the utilization of maternal health services. These results are consistent with many studies conducted in India and other countries. (Govindswamy1994). These studies have shown that education of the mother is an important social variable that has a positive effect on the utilization of maternal and child health services. The education of the mother is argued to be an effective means of achieving greater autonomy in the family, getting employment, thereby achieving economic independence. The education also provides her opportunities to learn about pregnancy and childbirth through exposure to mass media (Acharya et al, 2010)

Moreover, education makes mothers confident, brings a feeling of self-worth and self-confidence, and enhances communication with their husbands and other family members on different issues including her own health. (Chakraborty et al,2002)

Women in higher socio-economic groups tend to exhibit patterns of more frequent use of maternal health services than women in the lower socio-economic groups. A number of literatures have highlighted the utilization of maternal health care services varies with the socio-economic characteristics of the population. Several studies have documented the fact that the household wealth has a positive effect on the use of maternal healthcare (Ankomah et al2014)

Our study confirms the same in the case of urban adolescent mothers in India. Mothers from upper class are more likely to use maternal care compared to mothers from the lowerclass. Household wealth may facilitate the use of maternal care in many ways. Mothers from richer households are generally more educated and have more autonomy compared to mothers from the poorest households. Moreover, wealthier mothers also have enough resources to meet the expenses on healthcare whereas mothers from poor households, often less educated and unemployed, have difficulty affording their healthcare expenses. Their earnings are often so little that after spending on basic necessities of life, they are left with little or no amount of money for healthcare. (Babalola S, 2009)Those that are employed obviously have used more maternal healthcare services compared to those that are not employed. Major reasons for non-utilization of maternal service were not having a delivery complication in the past.

CONCLUSION:

The main focus of this study is to analyses the pattern& determinants of maternal health care services utilization in urban area. The study reveals that 36% of women are not utilize the health care

services in spite of government introducing many welfare schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana, Tai Bhagya etc.Targeting these group of women. Hence there is need for enhancing IEC activities for these groups of women who are at more risk of maternal morbidity & mortality. Poor mothers in urban settings are often uneducated, unemployed and excluded from social networks. For such groups the government should have targeted interventions.

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