

Healthcare Providers' Observation towards Pregnant Mothers' Healthcare Seeking Behaviour

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Abstract

Statement of the problem: The use of healthcare services by women plays an important role in determining the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and even after delivery. Reproductive healthcare is important for the survival and well-being of the mother and her child. Every woman needs to be aware of the danger signs that occur during pregnancy, as complications can be unpredictable. These danger signs include vaginal bleeding, severe headache, vision problems, high fever, swollen hands/ face, and reduced fetal movement.

Objective/purpose of the study: The objective of this study was to understand the perception of healthcare providers about pregnant mothers' healthcare seeking behaviour.

Methodology

This study was part of a larger cluster-randomized control trial (cRCT) that examined the effects of a combined package of enhanced nutrition and infection control interventions among pregnant women in Amhara region in Ethiopia on birth outcomes such as preterm birth and low birthweight. Data was collected through in-depth interview (IDI) with healthcare providers.

Findings: Most pregnant women were aware of the causes of giving birth to small babies but significant others were found to be highly attached to local beliefs. For instance, they believed that giving birth to small babies could be due to punishment from God, visiting people who are mourning and touching a dead body while pregnant and 'shotellay' (an RH incompatibility). This study has also found out that they had no/ little knowledge about nutritional requirements during pregnancy.

Conclusion

Although some of the pregnant women were aware about some complications of pregnancy and nutritional requirements during pregnancy but in general knowledge among most of the women was found to be inadequate. Recommendation: Women should receive health education about pregnancy including outcomes, danger signs during pregnancy, nutrition and family planning, as well as other services when they visit an ANC clinic.

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