

SOCIO- DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND EXTENT OF UTILIZATION ANTENATAL CARE SERVICES AMONG WOMEN IN COMMUNITIES IN ABI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, CROSS RIVER STATE NIGERIA

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Received: 04 Nov 2019, Revised and Accepted: 19 Dec 2019

Abstract

Socio-Demographic Data is a sensitive indicator used nationally and internationally to measure and compare the health and development status of the population. Access to care and early neonatal death rate are associated in maternal health around the time of delivery. Therefore, clinical antenatal care service before labor are important tool to identify the gaps/strength in this regards. The study was carried out to examine the extent of antenatal care service utilization by women in riverine communities of Abi Local Government Area of Cross River State. To achieve the objective of the study three (3) research question were formulated and tested at .05 alpha level of significance. A random sampling of 800 women of reproductive age were selected from seven (7) communities in Abi Local Government Area of Cross River State formed the sample of the study. The data collected were analyzed using mean scores and independent t- test analysis for the research question raised. The result of the findings from research question 1 revealed that healthcare provider's attitude influences the attitude of antenatal services by women. In research question 2 the findings indicated that location of health facilities affect utilization of antenatal care. Findings from research 3 revealed that maternal religion influence the utilization of Antenatal care services. Findings from hypothesis 4 revealed that marital status significantly influence the utilization of antenatal care by women. Above all, the study recommended among others that Government should update it's official guidelines for antenatal care according to new standard promoted by World Health Organization. Also, improved transport and telecommunication facilities at health centers where such care is provided should be enhanced to strengthen accessibility of antenatal care.

Keywords: Socio-Demographic Data, Extent of Antenatal Care Services, Utilization, Women In cross River State.

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, as in most developing countries, women of reproductive age (WRA) constitute more than one- fifth of the total population. According to World Health Organization (2006) Women Reproductive Age are exposed repeatedly to the risk of pregnancy, continuous child bearing and the attendant morbidity mortality. They opined that the bad condition is exacerbated under existing socio-economic conditions and the inadequacy ion of medical and health facilities.

Women of Reproductive age often face serious health risk during pregnancy either for themselves or children. In Africa, especially the sub-saharan region, pregnancy related health risks caused about a quarter of burden of disease in 1990 for women in the age group of 15 to 44 years (Gupta, 2007). Despite steady decline over the past decade, maternal mortality ratio of about 1000 deaths per 100,000 live births (WHO, 2001). Within Africa, Nigeria ranks quite high with a maternal mortality ratio of 585 per 100,00 (WHO, 2005).

However, Alakija (2000) indicated that the situation had improved in the past decade. It was 11 over 1000 live births a decade ago. Yet, even with such level, it is still high when compared to other African countries like sudan and Ghana with 3 to 5 deaths per 1000 live births as at 2002 not to mention, the less than per deaths per 100,000 life births for the developed countries.

UNICEF, (2015) a woman's chance of dying from pregnancy and child birth in Nigeria is 1 in 13 and that 145 women of child bearing age die every single day to pregnancy related causes. This makes the country the second contributors to maternal mortality rate in the world and the worst in Africa

Antenatal care is that health care given to a pregnant woman and to the developing fetus until the time of delivery. Gupta (2007) Stated that health of a pregnant woman has been found to be significantly influenced by the utilization of antenatal care. This is because antenatal care can help to identify those women who are at risk of complications during pregnancy and delivers, and thus, ensuring that they obtain special attention in suitably equipped facilities. It also provides an invaluable opportunity to increase the awareness of women, their families and communities of the risk of pregnancy and

how this can be overcome. The extent of utilization of modern antenatal clinic and the increase in proportion of mothers who visit trained personnel for antenatal checkup, therefore indicates the success being made in improving maternal health.

Expectant mothers who obtain sufficient antenatal care generally have better pregnancy outcome than those who lacks such Care, both in terms of their own health condition and that of their babies. Antenatal care whose sole aim is the care of the expectant mother from time of conception to delivery and six weeks postpartum is taken very seriously in the developed world. This is to enhance the chance of healthy babies being delivered to healthy uninjured mothers. In most parts of the developing world like Nigerian and most sub -saharan Africa the provision of Antenatal care services is yet to gain full recognition most especially in the rural communities (WHO, 20017).

Utilization of antenatal services enables general medical supervision of the expectant mother under the care or supervision of a medical personnel. From the earliest stages. It enables the physician or midwife to start treatment on time (Park, 2002).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

They study will seek answer to the following questions:

Does healthcare providers attitude influences the utilization of antenatal care by women?

Does location of healthcare facilities influence the utilization of antenatal care by women?

Does religion influences the utilization of antenatal care by women in the communities?

What is the influence of maternal martial status on the utilization of antenatal care by women in the communities?

METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the method and procedure used by the researcher in assessing the extent of utilization of antenatal care by women in Abi Local Government Area of Cross River State. The

