FACTORS RELATED TO THE UTILIZATION OF ANTENATAL CARE AMONG MOTHERS DELIVERED AT THE REGIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION CENTRE 1, BANGKOK, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

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MADHAV PRASAD CHAULAGAIN. **THESIS TITLE**: FACTORS RELATED TO THE UTILIZATION OF ANTENATAL CARE AMONG MOTHERS DELIVERED AT THE REGIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION CENTRE 1, BANGKOK, THAILAND. **THESIS ADVISOR**: ASSOC. PROF. PRAPAPEN SUWAN, PH.D. 97 PP. ISBN: 974-9599-07-1

A hospital based cross sectional study was carried out at the Regional Health Promotion Centre 1, Bangkok, Thailand during 20th January 2003 to 16th February 2003 in order to determine factors related to the utilization of antenatal care services among mothers who delivered recently. The trained interviewers interviewed a total of 110 cases using pre-tested structured questionnaire after considering the inclusion criteria.

The result of the study revealed that the prevalence of antenatal care utilization among mothers was almost cent percent. Number of antenatal visits was ranged between 3 to 11 times with the mean of 8.82 times and mode of 10 times. Normally, the first visit starts in the beginning of second month of pregnancy. The coverage of tetanus toxoid immunization, iron/folate supplement, and required examinations for pregnant women was found tremendously good.

Most of the women were aged between 20-35 years. Majority of them were workingwomen in the private sectors and housewives, and more than 80% were secondary school or above educated. Maximum three parity, majority (77%) having first parity, was also noticed. More than one third of women live in a nuclear family with more than 5000 Baht of monthly earnings. Most of their pregnancy was planned (80%). Mostly, they were helped, encouraged and assisted by their husbands. All of them had positive attitudes, and more than 90% of them had high or average knowledge. The satisfaction with antenatal care services was very good (95%). Nevertheless, there were some specific items, where women's knowledge, attitudes and satisfaction were found low.

Spearman's rho correlation coefficient test was performed to examine the relationships between frequency of antenatal care visits and variables of interest. The test result revealed that the knowledge was positively correlated ($p < .05$), and satisfaction was negatively correlated ($p < .05$). The frequency of antenatal care visit was divided into two groups, 3-8 times and 9+ times, using mean of 8, and then, Chi-square test was performed to see the differences. A significant difference was found between the ANC visits and husband's occupation ($p < .05$), and ANC visits and family income ($p < .05$).

A special program for creating awareness and appropriate knowledge should be included in the regular health education programme in order to make women clear on their traditional misunderstandings related to the pregnancy and antenatal care. Such types of program need to be focused to the husbands as well.

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Student's signature: Madhav Chaulagain
Advisor's signature: Prapapen Suwan

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Abbreviations (Acronyms)

ANC	Antenatal Care
DHS	Department of Health Services
DHS/N	Department of Health Services, Nepal
DOH/T	Department of Health, Thailand
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate/ Ratio
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MPH	Master's of Public Health
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
PPH	Postpartum Hemorrhage
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TT	Tetanus Toxoid
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WHO	World Health Organization