

Perception of Pregnant Females on Antenatal Care in Vijayapura, Karnataka - A cross-sectional study

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Abstract

Introduction: Pregnancy and childbirth are said to be one of the most joyful and emotional experiences in a woman’s life; which if complicated could threaten the woman’s life. Adequate ANC can prevent conditions which endanger maternal and child survival. ANC promotes a positive pregnancy experience and is also important for the child as its part of the critical 1000 days window. The perception and understanding of the importance of care during pregnancy among pregnant women has a positive impact on their health and prevents complications. The study’s objective was to determine the level of knowledge and practices of antenatal care among pregnant women residing in urban slum area. This cross-sectional study was carried out on pregnant women residing in the urban field practice area of Shri B.M. Patil Medical College, in June 2022.

Methods: A questionnaire was administered and data collected by house-to-house survey. Data was expressed as Mean (Median) \pm SD, percentages and diagrams. Categorical variables were compared using Chi-square test, OR and 95% Confidence Interval was applied.

Results: Among the 147 study participants, 85.71% were housewives, 46.94% primigravida. Study showed 72% had good knowledge scores while 88% were following adequate practices regarding antenatal care.

There was significant relationship between literacy, parity, socioeconomic-status and knowledge, practice scores.

Conclusion: The overall perception of antenatal care among the pregnant women was adequate but it was significantly lower in the illiterates and lower socioeconomic classes. It is necessary to improve the perception among mothers by effective health education programs.

Keywords: Antenatal care, Practices, Pregnant-women.

Introduction

Pregnancy and childbirth are said to be one of the most joyful and emotional experiences in a woman’s life; which if complicated could threaten the woman’s life.

Early and adequate ANC is useful in early detection, treatment and prevention of conditions which may endanger maternal and child survival. Hence, ANC is an opportunity to promote a positive pregnancy experience

and is also important for the child as its part of the critical “1000 days window.”

The perception and understanding of the importance of care during pregnancy and childbirth among pregnant women has a positive impact on their health and prevents complications. Hence, it is necessary to ascertain the level of knowledge and practices regarding antenatal care among pregnant women in India.

Based on the above background this study was conducted to -determine the level of knowledge, attitude and practices related to antenatal care among pregnant women residing in urban slum area -assess the awareness about their own health during pregnancy.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study was carried out on pregnant women residing in the urban field practice area of Shri B.M. Patil Medical College, in June 2022.

The sample size required for this study was calculated to be 147 with 95% level of confidence and 8% absolute precision.

A pre-designed, structured questionnaire was used and data collected by house-to-house survey.

Data was expressed as Mean (Median) \pm SD, counts, percentages and diagrams.

Categorical variables were compared using Chi-square test, OR and 95% Confidence Interval was applied.

$p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. All statistical tests performed two tailed.

Results

A total of 147 women took part in the interview and a 100% response rate was achieved.

The outcome of this cross-sectional study showed that among the participants, majority (85.71%) were house wives while more than half of them (53.06%) were primigravida.

Sociodemographic Characteristics

Age

It was found in this study that the age group of the pregnant women ranged from 21 to 34 years and the mean age was found to be 27.05 years.

Results (Contd.)

Education of participants

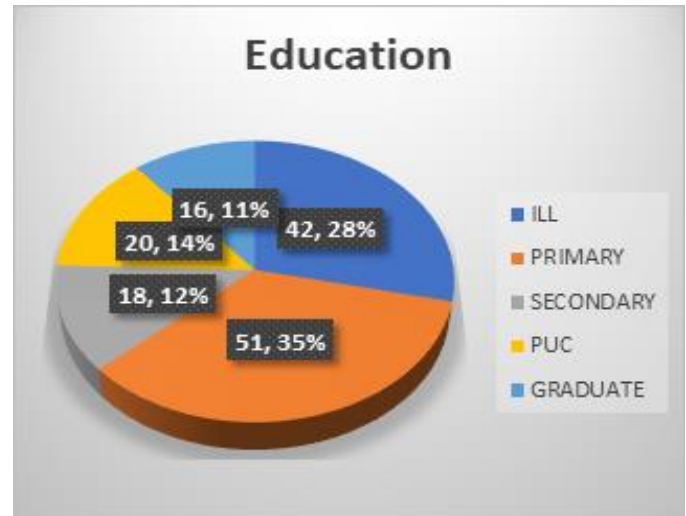


Figure 1: No. of Women (with %) as per level of education

It was found that most (35%) of the study participants were educated up to the primary school level whereas 28% were illiterate.

Socioeconomic Status of participants

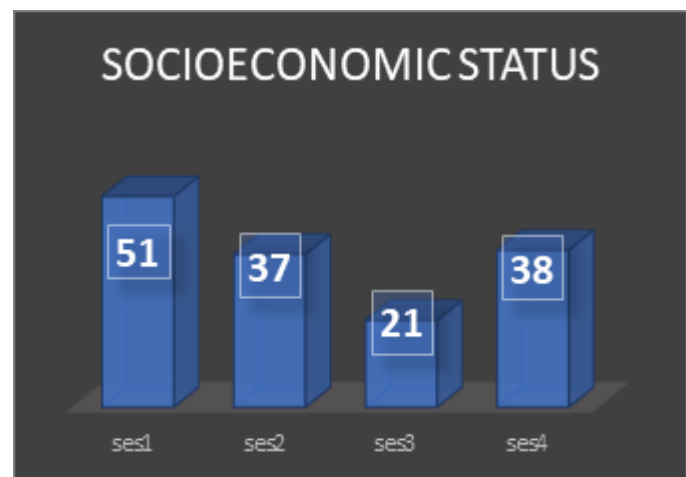


Figure 2: Socioeconomic Status of participants (n)

It was found in this study that 51 of the participants belonged to Class 1 (Upper class) while 38 of them belonged to Class 4 (Lower class) of Modified B.G. Prasad Socioeconomic classification.

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of the Participants

The study showed 116 women (80%) had good knowledge scores while 106 women (72.7%) were following adequate practices regarding antenatal care.

Results (Contd.)

Association of KAP with various factors

Association of Knowledge with different factors.

Table 1: Association of SES with total knowledge score

Socioeconomic Class		Total Knowledge Score	
		< 7	7+
SES	1	0	51
		0.0%	100.0%
	2	1	36
		2.7%	97.3%
3	7	14	
	33.3%	66.7%	
4	23	15	
	60.5%	39.5%	
Total		31	116
		21.1%	78.9%
Chi-Square Value		58.553	
P-Value		0.001*	

*It was found in this study that the association of knowledge scores with the socioeconomic status of the participants was statistically significant.

Table 2: Association of Education with Total Knowledge Score.

Education Level of participants		Total Knowledge Score	
		< 7	7+
Education	Graduate	0	16
		0.0%	100.0%
	Illiterates	28	14
		66.7%	33.3%
	Primary	3	48
		5.9%	94.1%
PUC	0	20	
	0.0%	100.0%	
Secondary	0	18	
	0.0%	100.0%	
Total		31	116
		21.1%	78.9%

Chi-Square tests

Pearson Chi-Square Value	73.947
Aysmp. Sign. (P-Value)	0.001*

*It was found in this study that the association of knowledge scores with the socio status of the participants was statistically significant.

Table 3: Age with Total Knowledge Score.

Age of participants		Total Knowledge Score	
		< 7	7+
AGE	< 28	20	71
		22.0%	78.0%
	28+	11	45
		19.6%	80.4%
Total		31	116
		21.1%	78.9%

Risk Estimate

Odds Ratio for AGE (< 28 / 28+) Value	1.152
95% Confidence Interval	0.505-2.630

It was found in this study that the association of age with the knowledge scores of the participants was statistically significant.

Results (Contd.)

Association of Practice of participants with different factors

Table 4: Association of Education and Practice Scores.

		Total Practice Score		
		< 5	5+	
Education	Graduate	0	16	
		0.0%	100.0%	
	ILL	37	5	
		88.1%	11.9%	
	Primary	4	47	
		7.8%	92.2%	
	PUC	0	20	
		0.0%	100.0%	
	Secondary	0	18	
		0.0%	100.0%	
	Total		41	106
			27.9%	72.1%

Chi-Square test	
Pearson Chi-Square Value	106.77
P-Value	0.001*

*It was found in this study that the association of education with the practice scores of the participants was statistically significant.

Discussion

- An adequate knowledge on antenatal care among pregnant women is a preliminary step towards success of RCH programs.
- The mean age of the study participants was found to be 27.05 years while the study done by Mr. J. Laishram showed the mean age of participants to be 29.5 years. (7)

- In this study 91.1% women had knowledge about Iron and folic acid tablets intake during pregnancy, whereas in a study done by Mr. Shafqat T. et al, reported that 83.98% women had awareness about importance of IFA tablets. (8)
- A study done by Mr. Mathews et al, in Karnataka revealed 97% women had TT administered during pregnancy while this study showed 90% participants had taken TT. (6)
- Here analysis of association of knowledge about ANC with education was found to be significant (P=0.001). Studies done by Mr. Gopalkrishnan et al and Mr. Manna et al, revealed similar statistically significant result. (2)
- Poor women usually have poor access to health education due to financial restraints and household responsibilities.
- The level of knowledge among this target audience about services provided should be improved for better utilisation of the services provided.

Conclusion

The overall perception of antenatal care among the pregnant women was adequate but it was significantly lower in the illiterates and lower socioeconomic classes. Since educational status of mothers plays an important role in the improvement of their knowledge, it is necessary to target all potential mothers with better education which will bridge the knowledge gaps.

To improve the community awareness regarding ANC, information, education and community activities should be increased through community campaign and mass media.

Women should also be motivated to utilise services freely available in government health setups.

Abbreviations

- KAP: Knowledge, Attitude and Practices.
- ANC: Ante natal care

SES: Socioeconomic Status

RCH: Reproductive and Child Health

IFA: Iron and Folic Acid

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