

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude on Maternal Care Among Spouses of Pregnant Women at a Selected Hospital in Chennai

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Abstract

Antenatal care is important to identify women at risk of developing pregnancy complications. In India, husbands are the main decision makers in family. Their support can have positive impact on health care of women, which in turn depends on their knowledge regarding importance of antenatal care with this view, a descriptive design was adopted to assess the knowledge and attitude on maternal care among spouses of pregnant women at a selected hospital in Chennai. Purposive sampling technique was used to identify a 245 spouses of pregnant women. The instrument consist questioners to assess the background variables, knowledge of the spouses of the pregnant women on maternal care and attitude likert scale related to maternal care.

Major findings: The study revealed that out of 245 subjects 38.4% of the spouses of pregnant women had adequate knowledge 57.6% of them had moderately adequate knowledge and very few (4.1%) of them had inadequate knowledge about maternal care. The study revealed that out of 245 subjects 80.8% had highly favourable attitude, 5.3% had favourable attitude and 13.9% had unfavourable attitude. The attitude means percentage score was 84%. There was a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of spouse of pregnant women. There was a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of spouse of pregnant

women. The study showed a significant association between knowledge, education, occupation of the spouse of pregnant women.

Conclusions: Majority of the spouses of pregnant women have poor knowledge regarding maternal care. Secondly majority of the spouses of pregnant women have favorable attitude towards maternal care. Consequent upon this, it was recommended that improved strategies hinged on enlightenment and orientation of men should be developed.

Keywords: Maternal care, Spouses of pregnant women, Knowledge, Attitude, Antenatal care.

Introduction

Pregnancy is one of the life's miracles and it is the greatest feeling for the both husband and wife. Pregnancy, birth and parenting events in a women's life is considered a bio-physiological event. Pregnancy is considered to be a developmental task, time of crisis, and a critical phase in the society. Pregnant women experience both emotional and physical changes. A woman's socioeconomic status, her number of previous births and her personality type can affect the extent of these emotions as well as her ability to cope with them. More than this the involvement of their spouse in taking care of their pregnant women during this period also shows positive attitude towards this signs and symptoms.

In 2013 World Health Organisation revealed that 2,86,000 of maternal mortality rates in upcoming countries reasons are due to preventable complications[24]Motivating men towards involvement in the care of their partners will reduce complication in pregnancy [23,35] prenatal visits always gives an opportunity to ask questions regarding pregnancy and birth. This will decrease anxiety and promote paternal participation. Male partners were occupied with routine jobs and they consider the antenatal care is the sole responsibility of the wife/women. Males are generally excluded from participating in routine care because the medical system does not accommodate them and the community considers maternal care as exclusive preserve of women. Majority of Male had poor knowledge about danger sign in pregnancy (60.6%), [27]. Men's knowledge and their participation boosting the morale of their wives and also bring about a greater sense of commitment of both parents towards having healthy mothers and babies. A number of studies have been carried out on the role of men in reproductive health in various parts of India, [10,32] But comparatively little research has focused on the awareness of men in Tamil Nadu about men involvement in the maternal care during pregnancy as well as their attitude on maternal care, hence this study was designed to assess the knowledge and attitude on maternal care among spouse's of pregnant women. The researcher decided to → Assess the knowledge and attitude on antenatal care among spouses. Identify the relationship between knowledge and attitude among spouses. Find out the association between knowledge, attitude and selected background variables of the spouses.

Materials and Methodology Design:

A descriptive design was used for this study. The target populations of this study were spouses of pregnant women. The Accessible populations for the study were spouses accompanying pregnant women to antenatal outpatient department of SRH, Chennai. The purposive sampling technique

was used. A sample of 245 spouses of pregnant women was selected based on inclusion criteria. Method of data collection: The instrument was a structured interview schedule consisted of three parts. Part-I Background variable Questionnaire, part II-Tool to assess knowledge of the spouses of the pregnant women on maternal care, part III-attitude likert scale related to maternal care. The collected data were analyzed by descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation) and inferential statistics (ANOVA, independent t' test, correlation co-efficient, post hog analysis and multivariable logistic regression). The 0.05 level of significance was used. Data collection: The period of data collection extended from 11.07.16 to 05.08.16. Samples of 245 spouses of pregnant women were selected using the purposive sampling technique based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Spouses of pregnant women were assessed for their knowledge and attitude on maternal care using structure interview schedule. Seven to eight subjects were interviewed each day. Each subject was interviewed separately and privately in the antenatal OPD, Strict confidentiality was maintained throughout the interview.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation), inferential statistics (independent 't'-test, correlation coefficient, regression) were used to analyse the data.

Results

Background variables the Table 1 shows that 62% spouses of pregnant women were in the age group of 20 -30 years and 38% of them were in the age group of 31 -45 years. The data regarding educational status of the spouses of pregnant women shows that 66.9% were graduate 33.1% of them were educated up to schooling. Majority of the spouse of pregnant women (83.3%) were from Urban. Nearly one fourth of them that is 23.3% and 24.5% received information

regarding maternal care from friends and health workers respectively.

Table 2 shows that 38.4% (94) of the spouses of pregnant women had inadequate knowledge 57.6% (141) of them had moderately adequate knowledge and very few (4.1%) of them had adequate knowledge.

Table 3 shows that in the general aspects and warning signs and precautions,

Table 1: Distribution of the Spouses of Pregnant Women According to Their Background Variables (N=245)

Background Characteristics n	n	%
Total family income (Rs./month)		
Upper class -(18498-36996)		
Upper Middle class- (13874-18497)	107	43.7
Middle class- (9249-13873)	82	33.5
Lower Middle class - (5547-9248)	46	18.8
	6	2.4
Lower class- (1866-5546)	4	1.6
Type of Family		
Joint family	142	58
Nuclear family	101	41.2
Extended family	2	0.8
Residence		
Rural	40	16.3
Urban	204	83.3
Semi-urban	1	0.4

Table 2: Distribution of Adequacy of Spouse's Knowledge on Maternal Care (N=245)

Level of Knowledge	n	%
Adequate (76-100%)	10	4.1
Moderately Adequate (51-75%)	141	57.6
Inadequate (0-50%)	94	38.4

23.3% and 26.9% of them had adequate knowledge respectively. Majority of them (72.3%) had in adequate level of knowledge in the area of investigation. In the general aspects and warning signs and precaution, 33.4 %, 34.3% of them had inadequate knowledge respectively.

Table 4 shows that the mean percentage in the area of general aspects of maternal care was high (66.8%) followed by warning signs (51.38%) and investigation (36.75%). The attitude mean percentage score was high (84%) when compared to knowledge. The study revealed that out of 245 subjects 38.4% of the spouses of pregnant women had adequate knowledge 57.6% of them had moderately adequate knowledge and very few (4.1%) of them had inadequate knowledge about maternal care .

Out of 245 subjects in general aspect and warning signs and precautions 23.3% and 26.9% of them had adequate knowledge respectively. Very few of them (2.4%) had adequate knowledge about investigation. In the general aspects and warning signs and precaution on 33.4%, 34.3% of them had inadequate knowledge and 72.3% about investigation. The study revealed that out of 245 subjects 80.8% had highly favourable attitude, 5.3% had favourable attitude and 13.9% had unfavourable attitude. The attitude means percentage score was 84%. There was a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of spouse of pregnant women. The study showed a significant association between knowledge and education, occupation, socio economic status, source of information received about maternal care and the number of visits accompanied to antenatal clinic.

Table 3: Distribution of Adequacy of Spouse's Knowledge on Different Aspects of Maternal Care (N=245)

Knowledge	Adequate (76-100%)		Moderately adequate (51-75%)		Inadequate (0-50%)	
General aspects during pregnancy	57	23.3	106	43.3	82	33.4
Investigation during pregnancy	6	2.4	62	25.3	177	72.3
Warning signs and precautions in pregnancy	66	26.9	95	38.8	84	34.3

Table 4: Mean, Standard Deviation and Mean Percentage Scores of Spouses of Pregnant Women on Maternal Care (N=245)

	Minimum - Maximum Score	M	SD	%
Knowledge and Attitude				
Knowledge			5.83	52.77
Over all knowledge (Score = 40)	7 - 37	21.11		
General aspects (Score = 15)	6-13	10.02	3.16	66.8
Investigation (Score = 12)	6-11	4.41	2.13	36.75
Warning signs and precautions (Score = 13)	5-10	6.68	2.23	51.38
Attitude (Score = 64)	27-64	53.77	6.96	84

Discussion

The following four conclusions are made from the study findings. Firstly majority of the spouses of pregnant women have poor knowledge regarding maternal care. Secondly majority of the spouses of pregnant women have favourable attitude towards maternal care. Thirdly there is a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude. Finally the knowledge and attitude of the spouses of pregnant women in regard to maternal care are influenced by some of the demographic characteristics of the spouses of pregnant women (education, occupation, socio - economic status, mode of information obtained about maternal care, number of visits accompanied antenatal clinic by the pregnant women. The study revealed that out of 245 subjects 38.4% of the spouses of pregnant women had adequate knowledge 57.6% of them had moderately adequate knowledge and very few (4.1%) of them had inadequate knowledge about maternal care. Out of 245 subjects in general aspect and warning signs and precautions 23.3% and 26.9% of them had adequate knowledge respectively. Very few of them (2.4%) had adequate knowledge about investigation. In the general aspects and warning signs and precaution 33.4%, 34.3% of them had inadequate knowledge and 72.3% about investigation. The study revealed that out of 245 subjects 80.8% had highly favourable attitude, 5.3% had favourable attitude and 13.9% had unfavourable attitude. The attitude means percentage score was 84%. There was a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of spouse of pregnant women.

The study showed a significant association between knowledge and education, occupation, socio economic status, source of information received about maternal care and the number of visits accompanied to antenatal clinic.

Conclusion

Knowledge of spouses regarding maternal care was found to be moderately adequate in our study. They, however, need to be motivated to use that knowledge into practice. Spouses are the decision -makers of health care in families, a change in their knowledge and attitude can bring about a great difference which would result in early registration, diagnosis of complications and their timely management. To improve knowledge and awareness on maternal care

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