

A community-based study on the role of maternal education on antenatal care services and childcare in a rural area, Adilabad, Telangana state

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Abstract

Background: Educated women tend to have a greater awareness of the existence of ANC services, more aware of health problems, know more about the availability of health care services, and utilize the information more effectively than non-educated women. Moreover, higher levels of education tend to positively affect health-seeking behaviors, and education may increase a woman's control over her pregnancy. In this study, we tried to analyze to what level maternal education can influence antenatal care services and childcare.

Methods: A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted on 150 randomly selected mothers who have children less than 7 years by using a pre-tested structured questionnaire for data collection at Shanthapur, a rural area, Adilabad town from January 2019 to February 2019.

Results: Out of 150 study subjects, 12.6% (19) of the study subjects were not registered for antenatal services. Higher the maternal education more the birth spacing between the pregnancies ($p < 0.05$), more preference for institutional deliveries ($p < 0.05$), more the birth weight of the child ($p < 0.05$), less number of baby hospitalization due to illness ($p < 0.00001$).

Conclusion and Recommendation: This study revealed that the utilization of ANC services was relatively better for the mother's educated higher than secondary school but they are still low. Educational status is important in having more health-seeking behavior. In this study, it proves that health education is more important than the mere school education which can help to improve knowledge on ANC.