

A Community Based Study on the Role of Maternal Education on Antenatal Care Services and Child Care at Various Tribal Villages, 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 and expose women to more health education messages and campaigns, enabling them to recognize danger signs and complications and take appropriate action. In this study, we tried to analyze to what level the maternal education can influence the antenatal care services and childcare. **Methods:** A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted on 93 randomly selected mothers who have children less than 7 years by using a pre-tested structured questionnaire for data collection at various tribal villages, at an average 25 kms away from Adilabad town from April-October 2019. Analysis was done using SPSS for windows version 16, Microsoft excel and Open epi website. **Results:** Out of 93 study subjects, 19.3% (18) of the study subjects were not registered for the antenatal services. Higher the maternal education higher the age at pregnancy ($p < 0.05$), was associated with more preference for deliveries by doctors ($p < 0.05$). More the frequency of exclusive breast feeding, long lasting breast feeding was associated more than a year ($p < 0.05$), less number of children with wasting ($p < 0.05$). **Conclusion:** This study revealed that utilization of ANC services were 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.