

FACTORS AFFECTING MODERN CONTRACEPTION UPTAKE AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE LIVING WITH HIV IN BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

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Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is host to 25.6 million HIV positive individuals and among them 190,000 are Burundian women (Amuche et al., 2017). Despite experiencing reproductive processes similar to those without HIV, individuals, particularly women living with HIV frequently receive insufficient attention concerning contraception. This study aims to identify the factors that affect the uptake of contraception among women living with HIV in the Bujumbura province.

This study was carried out as cross-sectional study. Data were collected through participant interviews and then entered into Statistical Package for Social Scientists (IBM SPSS) version 24 for analysis, with statistical significance set at 5% ($p \leq 0.05$). Both bivariate and multivariate analyses were used to identify the factors that affect the uptake of contraception among women living with HIV in Bujumbura.

A total of 386 individuals participated in the study, with a current contraceptive usage prevalence of 49.2%. The most used contraceptive method was injectables, used by 49.5% of the participants. About 43% of the respondents had been living with HIV for over a decade, and all of them confirmed receiving information about modern contraceptives, primarily from healthcare facilities (87.8%). Factors such as younger age, education, HIV status of the partner, current viral load, and the attitude of health care providers at ART clinics were found to be associated from the bivariate analysis with the utilization of modern contraceptive methods. The duration of living with HIV (OR: 1.38, 95% CI: 1.08; 1.65, $P < 0.01$), having 1 to 3 children (OR: 1.572, 95% CI: 1.35; 1.97), not receiving information (OR: 0.143, 95% CI: 0.065; 0.317), not receiving advice on contraceptive methods (OR: 0.284, 95% CI: 0.106; 0.517), and lack of access to needed contraception (OR: 0.421, 95% CI: 0.33; 1.84) were significantly associated with contraceptive use.

This study demonstrated the low prevalence of contraceptive use among Burundian women living with HIV. Those who did not receive information and advice about contraceptive methods, as well as the younger population, were less inclined to use contraception. Conversely, there was a higher prevalence of contraceptive use among women with a university-level education, those whose partners had a negative HIV status, and women with an undetectable viral load.

Key Words: Women, HIV, Modern Contraception use.

**PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF FIRST-TIME MOTHERS TOWARDS
CAESAREAN SECTION IN A SECONDARY HEALTH CARE FACILITY IN IBADAN,
NIGERIA: A MIXED METHOD STUDY**

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Despite global rise in caesarean section (CS), Nigeria has a CS rate of 2.8%, which is far below WHO recommendation of 10-15%. Primigravida and /or first-time mothers constitute a cohort of women who are prone to obstetric emergencies such as cephalo-pelvic disproportion (CPD), obstructed labor. The study aims to evaluate the first-time mothers' knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes toward CS.

This was a mixed-method study conducted among first-time mothers (primigravids >28 weeks and first-time CS-delivered) at Adeoyo Maternity Teaching Hospital, Ibadan using questionnaires which assessed the knowledge, attitude for the quantitative aspect and in-depth interview for the qualitative aspect using a structured topic guide. Each participant's level of knowledge were scored and categorized as : good knowledge >70%, fair knowledge 50-70% and poor knowledge <50%. . Emerging themes on perception, interpretation on CS was summarised and presented as results for interpretation.

275 mothers (178 pregnant and 97 CS-delivered) were sampled. Only few (13.45%) of the participants had good knowledge with equivocal attitude towards CS. Majority (84%) believed that CS helps in saving lives. Also, there was a statistically significant difference between the knowledge and their educational level, occupation, religion, ethnicity and family income with $p < 0.05$. The multinomial regression showed that gainfully employed Christian women significantly had fair and good knowledge than muslims (RR=2.01, 95% CI=1.13-3.57, $p=0.017$) (RR=2.71, 95% CI=1.23-5.95, $p=0.013$).

Only a small number of the participants had good knowledge and their perception about CS varies. The attitude of participants towards CS appeared mixed as nearly equal proportions of participants had positive and negative attitude. Hence, there is the need to increase advocacy, antenatal education and counselling during the antenatal clinic visits. Also, first-time mothers need to be put on insurance to reduce the burden of cost.

Keywords: Caesarean section, knowledge, perception, attitude, first-time mother

UTILIZATION OF PRECONCEPTION CARE AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

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Various strategies have been applied to reduce the burden of maternal and child morbidity and mortality, but the rates remain unacceptably high. Efforts have been made in antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care, although little emphasis has been placed on preconception care, especially in developing countries, including Tanzania. Therefore, this study aimed to assess the knowledge and utilization of preconception care in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

This was a cross-sectional study conducted among 312 pregnant women attending Temeke and Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospitals, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, using interviewer-administered structured questionnaires. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied to the data, including bivariate and multivariable logistic regression analysis. To declare a statistically significant association, a p-value of <0.05 was used.

Forty-seven (15.1%) participants utilized preconception care with HIV counselling, testing and ART initiation being the most utilized (21.3%). The most common source of information on preconception care was by healthcare workers (54%). Two hundred (64.1%) and one hundred and sixty-nine (54.2%) participants, had adequate knowledge and favorable attitude towards preconception care, respectively. Logistic regression analysis revealed adequate knowledge of preconception care ($p = 0.004$), a favorable attitude towards preconception care ($p = <0.001$), unplanned pregnancy ($p = 0.001$) and not having a history of previous infertility or subfertility ($p = <0.001$) as statistically significant factors influencing preconception care utilization.

The study revealed that though about two-thirds of the participants had adequate knowledge of pre-conception care, the utilization of preconception care is low. It also identified the factors influencing the use of preconception care, therefore, implementing strategies to improve women's knowledge and attitudes towards preconception care, such as opportunistic provider-initiated preconception care counseling during health visits could improve the utilization of preconception care services.

Key Words: Preconception care, Utilization, Pregnant women, Factors, Dar es Salaam

KNOWLEDGE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA AMONG ANTENATAL CARE ATTENDEES AT FAJI KUNDA AND FARAFENNI HEALTH FACILITIES, THE GAMBIA

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCE

Obstetric fistula is an improper connection between the vagina and nearby tubular organs, most commonly the rectum and the bladder, which leads to the leakage of urine, feces or both from the vagina. Obstetric fistula affects around 50,000 to 100,000 women yearly throughout the globe, according to the World Health Organization [WHO]. The study aims to evaluate the level of knowledge and associated factors of obstetric fistula among antenatal care attendees at Faji Kunda and Farafenni Health Facilities, The Gambia.

An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted among antenatal care attendees at Faji Kunda and Farafenni. A systematic sampling technique was employed to recruit the study participants from the selected health facilities. The collected data was entered into SPSS version 24 for data cleaning and storage, while SATA version 18 was used for the analysis. The descriptive data was displayed in tables using percentages and. In parallel, multivariate logistic regression and Chi-square were performed to determine the factors associated with obstetric fistula knowledge among antenatal care attendees from the selected health facilities. The significance level was $p < 0.05$ at 95% confidence intervals (CI). The results were presented using adjusted odds ratios (aOR).

Most study participants were between 18 and 23 years old, and the majority (37.4%; $n=144$) had no formal education. The study shows that only 24.2% ($n=93$) of the participants demonstrated satisfactory knowledge about obstetric fistula. Results highlight a strong and statistically significant association ($p < 0.001$) between knowledge of obstetric fistula and age. The findings also showed a significant association ($p < 0.001$) between knowledge about obstetric fistula and education levels. Attendees with tertiary education exhibit notably higher odds [aOR=8.55; $p < 0.001$; 95% CI (2.83-25.81)]. Occupation was significantly associated with knowledge about obstetric fistula [(aOR=18.6; $p < 0.001$; 95% CI (5.29-65.38)]. Likewise, attendees from wealthier backgrounds exhibited a stronger association, with those in the rich category having an [aOR=7.41; $p < 0.001$; 95% CI (2.40-22.84)].

The participants in the study had a limited comprehension of obstetric fistulas. The study's findings indicate a significant association between knowledge of obstetric fistula and characteristics such as age, education, income index, and occupation. Consequently, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive initiative that seeks to enhance the education of young women and promote awareness of obstetric fistula.

Keywords: Knowledge, Associated Factors, Obstetric Fistula, Antenatal Care Attendees

USE OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS AMONG WOMEN AGED 18 TO 45 YEARS IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCE

This study aimed to understand factors influencing Family Planning (FP) utilization among women aged 18 to 45 in Monrovia, Liberia, and recommend interventions for improved reproductive health outcomes. Using mixed methods, the cross sectional study focused on Montserrado and Bomi County, utilizing a multiple-stage cluster sampling technique. Statistical analyses revealed significant associations between FP utilization and knowledge variables, socio-demographic, and economic factors; Source of information ($\chi^2=199.324$, $p < 0.001$), FP side effects ($\chi^2=47.678$, $p < 0.001$), Fear of side effects ($\chi^2=170.752$, $p < 0.001$), Age ($\chi^2=176.204$, $p < 0.001$), Education attainment ($\chi^2=316.924$, $p < 0.001$), Religion ($\chi^2=124.052$, $p < 0.001$), Income adequacy ($\chi^2=19.654$, $p < 0.001$). The qualitative aspect of the study delved into the role of cultural norms. FP utilization was affected by these factors. The study recommends implementing programs targeting women with lower educational attainment, tailoring family planning initiatives to align with cultural and religious beliefs, and improving geographical accessibility to health facilities.

Keywords: Family planning (FP), Contraceptive, Socio-demographic factor, sociocultural factor, Monrovia

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH UPTAKE OF MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AMONG YOUNG WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES IN BOTSWANA

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCES

This study investigated knowledge, attitudes, and factors influencing the uptake of modern contraceptive methods among young women with disabilities in Botswana. This cross-sectional study was conducted among young women (10-30 years) with disabilities, recruited through non-probability purposive sampling from disability service organizations. Using an interviewer administered tool, data collected was analysed using STATA 15.

Among the 349 participants, the pattern of disabilities were deaf or hard of hearing (36.68%), physical disability (30.09%) and albinism (1.43%). The majority (71.6%) were aware of contraceptive methods and 69.6% received information from health personnel. Of those, 60.4% knew oral pills and 81.6% linked modern contraceptives to preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections. About 38.3% reported using modern contraceptives, mainly male condoms. Stigmatization fears emerged as a significant barrier (36.0%).

Knowledge, gaps and unfavorable attitudes towards contraception were evident suggesting a need for interventions to meet needs of young people living with disabilities.

Key Words: Disabilities, Botswana, Modern contraceptives, Reproductive Health