



Disrespectful Maternity Care in Rural Uttar Pradesh, India: A Hinder Towards Maternal and Child Health

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Introduction

Respectful maternity care is treating a woman with dignity throughout her pregnancy, birth and the period following childbirth. It respects her rights and choices through supportive communication, actions and attitudes. Disrespect and abuse treatment during childbirth in health facilities is a burning issue all over the world. Every third women who opt institutional delivery experienced any kind of mistreatment. The prevalence of disrespect and abuse varies from 15% to 98% all over the world. Studies reported high prevalence of disrespect and abuse during child birth in India. Which is contributing to untold suffering and discouraging women from seeking care in health facilities.

Objective

This study estimates the prevalence of disrespect and abuse (D&VA) during the utilisation of ANC services and identifies the associated factors

Data and Methodology

Study Design: This is a cross-sectional, community-based study done in the two blocks of Balrampur district, Uttar Pradesh, India. Study included 384 women, selected through multistage clustering sampling who underwent facility-based childbirth during the last six months prior to the survey.

Outcome Variable: Women were asked a set of different questions on D&A, including physical abuse, non-consent care, and non-confidential care etc during ANC. The dependent variable was coded dichotomous 1 as “any disrespect and abuse” if women experienced at least one type of disrespect or abuse and 0 “ if she does not experience any incident of D&A during ANC visit”.

Methodology: Bivariate and binary logistic regression is used to full fill the objective.

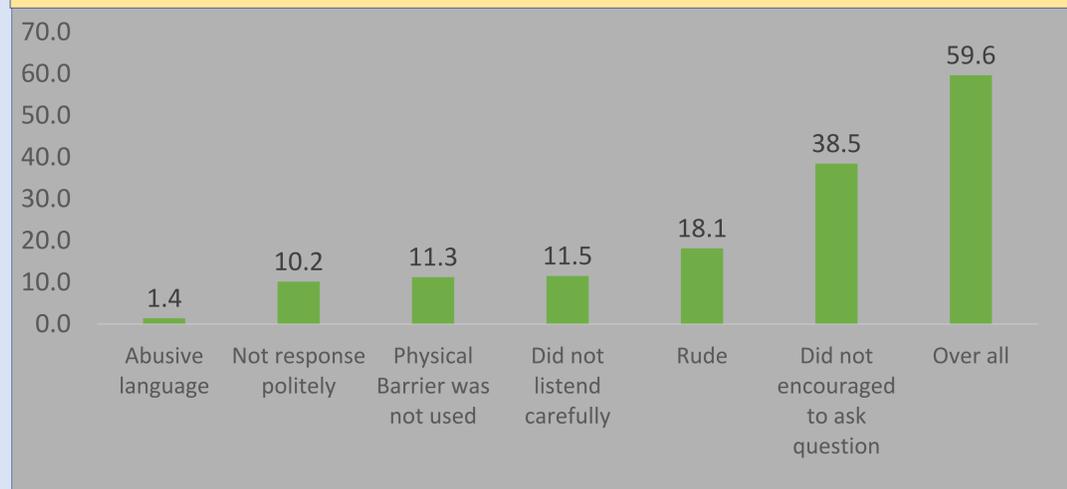
Results

More than half of the respondents experienced at least one forms of D&A at the time of antenatal care services. In 1.4% of cases, women tolerated abusive language from the service providers, and 18% of them reported that the service providers were impolite.

Higher prevalence of D&A found among younger women. Also prevalence of D&A found higher among Muslims than the Hindus. The prevalence of D&A during ANC services found 72% among women who belong SC/ST caste group, while those among higher caste group the prevalence is 52 %. Furthermore, the percentage of D&A was higher among illiterate women (61%), followed by women with primary education (58%) and secondary or above education (52%).

Result from logistic regression shows that Women in the age group 25-34 years and 35+ years were 54 % and 69% were less likely to experience D&A respectively than the respondent in the age group of 15-24 years. Women who belongs to OBC and General caste are 44% and 55% less likely to experience D&A during ANC than those who belong to SC/ST caste group.

Figure1: Prevalence of Different Kind of Abuse During ANC Services , Rural Uttar Pradesh , India



Result of logistic regression of abuse & disrespect and socio demographic characteristics

Socio-demographic	%of any abuse during ANC	Odds Ratio	P Value
Age Group			
15- 24	71.7	R	
25-34	55.5	0.463 ***	0.007
35 and above	45.3	0.318***	0.006
Age at Marriage			
less than 18 years	62.3	R	
18 and above	55.6	0.547*	0.084
Religion			
Hindu	54.3	R	
Muslim	63.4	1.461	0.173
Caste			
SC/ST	66.7	R	
OBC	52.9	0.566*	0.066
General	50.0	0.457**	0.014
Respondent's education			
no formal education	57.7	R	
primary	54.4	0.756	0.425
secondary and above	52.1	0.653	0.285
Husband's education			
no formal education	55.8	R	
primary	60.0	1.125	0.681
secondary and above	54.2	1.139	0.689
Occupation			
home maker	53.9	R	
other	63.0	1.518	0.129
Family Type			
joint	57.4	R	
Nuclear	54.2	1.157	0.583
Wealth Index			
Poorest	48.8	R	
Poorer	52.8	1.022	0.95
Middle	61.0	1.464	0.294
Richer	66.2	1.869	0.103
Richest	54.0	1.127	0.768
Time of Registration			
Within 12 weeks	59.1	R	
After 12 weeks	60.1	0.954	0.845

Conclusion

This study estimated the prevalence of disrespect and abuse during ANC and explored its associated factors. In the study population, every second woman reported at least one kind of abuse and disrespect during ANC services utilisation.

Women's higher age was associated with the low odds of D&A during ANC services, consistent with the findings from other studies. Also women who belonged to the 'General' caste group were less likely to experience any disrespect or abuse during ANC service than women from the ST/SC.

Every woman has the right to receive respectful maternity care, and mistreatment during maternal care services hinders achieving safe motherhood and child care. Therefore, maternal health efforts should focus on improving the quality of care to improve service utilisation