

# A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge of Maternal & Child Health Services among Women Provided at Selected Rural Health Centre, Mohali, Punjab

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## ABSTRACT

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Maternal and Child Health services (MCH) are the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative health care directed to mother and children in the form of service programmes. Hence, the researcher felt the need to assess the knowledge and utilization of maternal & child health services among women.

### AIM OF THE STUDY

To assess the knowledge of Maternal & Child Health Services among women. To identify deficit areas in order to improve the knowledge of MCH Services.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

The conceptual framework of the study was based on Self-care deficit nursing theory. A quantitative research approach with descriptive design was adopted for the study. Non probability convenience sampling technique was used and 100 samples from rural health centre were selected.

### RESULTS

The mean score of knowledge is 22.87, SD is 3.767 and mean percentage is 57.18. The r value found to be 0.746.

### CONCLUSION

The present study was undertaken to evaluate knowledge of maternal & child health services among women. The study revealed that women have good knowledge of MCH services in selected rural health centre, Mohali, Punjab.

**KEYWORDS:** Maternal and child health services, knowledge of women who had children under 5 years of age

## INTRODUCTION

Maternal health refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period (WHO, 2010). By improving health of mothers and children in any society we contribute to a large segment of general population and it is because of this special and usually combined health services for mother and child, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services are considered globally more so in developing countries<sup>1</sup>.

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service programmes. Maternal and Child Health care is defined as comprehensive care to improve all round health of the mother and child.<sup>2</sup>

MCH was the voluntary work co-ordinate maternal and child welfare bureau under Indian red cross society. Use of maternal and child health services increases the likelihood of skilled attendance at delivery, which later increases the use of postnatal care.<sup>3,4</sup>

However, with increase in institutional delivery, the maternal mortality and newborn mortality is expected to decline due to the presence of skilled birth

attendants, supported by the essential infrastructure and referral services when required. Various studies and surveys in India have documented a rise in proportion of institutional deliveries since the launch of the conditional cash transfer scheme (Janani Suraksha Yojana, JSY). More ever children are asset for the family, community and nation, where as mothers have an important role in their growth and development.<sup>5,6</sup>

Statistics reveal that every seven minutes an Indian woman dies from complications related to pregnancy and child birth. Most of these causes of maternal deaths are well known and are largely preventable by increasing access to and utilization of available maternal health services. Availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of maternal services are important to reduce maternal mortality as well as morbidity. Though the maternal health indicators of urban population are better than those of rural population; however conditions of urban slums are worse than rural areas.<sup>7</sup>

A cross sectional study was conducted on knowledge & attitude on maternal health among rural to urban migrant women in China. The mean score of knowledge on maternal health care was 8.28 out of 12. However 36.6% women had attended the required 5 antenatal checks, 95.8% were knowledgeable about immunization, 71.2% agreed that antenatal care is necessary, 50.7% of them didn't know that anemia during pregnancy is preventable. Findings suggest that there is need for targeted health education to the pregnant women to improve maternal health<sup>8</sup>

Promotion of maternal and child health has been one of the most important components of the family welfare programme of the Government of India and the National Population Policy – 2000. One of the most important component of antenatal care is to offer information and advice to women about pregnancy related complication and possible curative measures for early detection and management of complications. Antenatal care is considered essential for health of both the mother and the child, it is important to analyze the possible factors contributing to its utilization<sup>9</sup>.

India has an excellent infrastructural layout for the delivery of MCH services in the community through a network of sub centers, primary health centers, community health centers, district hospitals, state medical college hospitals, and other hospitals in the public and private sectors. The RCH program, to be launched shortly, aims at effective utilization of these facilities to ensure delivery of integrated services of assured quality through decentralized planning. Simultaneously, as a result of the ongoing economic liberalization, the MCH care in the private sector will also expand rapidly. Indeed, India is on the threshold of an extraordinary improvement in the status of its neonatal-perinatal health<sup>10</sup>.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-**

1. To assess the knowledge regarding Maternal & Child Health Services among women.
2. To find association of knowledge regarding maternal & child health services with socio demographic variables.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Research approach and design:- The quantitative research approach and descriptive design was used.

#### **SAMPLE SIZE & SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

The sample technique was selected by non-probability convenient sampling technique and sample size was 100.

#### **DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

Data collection for the study was done at the PHC, Gharuan, Mohali. Questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge related MCH services among women .After collecting data, booklets were given to women who had children under 5 years of age to improve the knowledge related to importance of MCH services.

#### **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Prior written permission was taken from PHC,Gharuan, Mohali, Punjab to collect the data. Self introduction and introduction of the nature of study were explained to the mothers who had children under 5 years of age.Assurance was given to the study participants regarding the confidentiality of data collected and it was truly used for research work of study.

**RESULTS:****Objective: 1:-To assess the knowledge regarding Maternal & Child Health Services among women.****Table No. 1 Percentage distribution among women according to their level of knowledge regarding Maternal & Child Health Services****N-100**

Criterion	Range of percentage	Range of score	No. of Respondent	
			Frequency	Percentage (%)
Excellent	>75%	>30	10	10
Good	56%-75%	23-30	49	49
Average	35%-55%	14-22	41	41
Below Average	<35%	< 14	0	0

**Maximum score= 40****Minimum score=00**

**Table No. 1:-** depict that maximum (49%) women had good knowledge regarding maternal & child health services following by average (41%), excellent (10%) and below average (0%). It can be concluded that majority of women had good knowledge regarding maternal & child health services.

**Objective no:2:- To find association of knowledge regarding maternal & child health services with socio demographic variables.**

**Table No. 2 Association between Knowledge with Socio-Demographic Variables****N-100**

Socio demographic variables	Category	Average %	Good %	Excellent %	Chi square value	df	Table Value
Age in years	21-25	56	28	16	12.483NS	3	12.592
	26-30	55	41	5			
	31-35	23	73	5			
	36-40	32	55	13			
Educational status	Primary	45	52	3	5.498NS	4	12.952
	Secondary	43	52	5			
	Higher Secondary	32	50	18			
	Graduation	50	38	13			
	Post-Graduation	0	0	0			
Occupation	Home maker	35	65	0	9.8NS	3	12.592
	Health Professional	42	48	10			
	Laborer	38	38	23			
	Business	50	45	5			
No. of children	1	43	55	2	12.892*	3	9.488
	2	39	52	9			
	3	40	30	30			
	4	0	0	0			
Religion	Sikh	35	65	0	10.425NS	3	12.592
	Hindu	48	39	13			
	Muslim	26	53	21			
	Christian	50	50	0			
Type of Family	Nuclear	40	51	9	0.705NS	2	9.488
	Joint	39	50	11			
	Extended	47	40	13			
Family income	Rs.5000-10, 000	47	43	10	0.616NS	1	5.991
	Rs.10, 001-15, 000	39	51	10			

**Maximum score=40****Minimum score =00****NOTE:\*=Significant at 0.005 level (p<0.05) NS- Non Significant at 0.05 level (p>0.05)**

**Table no. 2:-** shows the association between Knowledge with socio-demographic variables. In this, there is significant association of knowledge with number of children as analyzed by  $\chi^2$  value of 12.592 significant at 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant association of knowledge with age, educational status, occupation, religion, type of family and monthly income.

## DISCUSSION

Maternal and child health services can be defined as “promoting, preventing, therapeutic or rehabilitation facility or care for the mother and child”. Thus, maternal and child health service is an important and essential service related to mother and child’s overall development.

Review of literature enlightened various studies done to identify the knowledge regarding Maternal & Child Health Services among women. The findings of the present study revealed majority 49% of women had good knowledge, 10% had excellent knowledge, 41% had average knowledge and no one had below average knowledge regarding maternal & child health services.

**Kaur R, Govind P, Pandhar D, Walia DK (2020)** conducted a prospective study to assess the knowledge regarding maternal and child health services available among antenatal women visiting antenatal OPD, Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector-32, Chandigarh. Convenient sampling technique was used to select 120 subjects visiting antenatal OPD. Data analysis was done by calculating mean, standard deviation, percentage and correlation coefficient by using descriptive and inferential statistics at  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significance. Majority of the women had average knowledge regarding maternal and child health services available. There were no association between knowledge score and demographic variables.

The findings of present study supported by the similar study to find the knowledge and practices regarding women among the mothers of children. Results showed that knowledge about the 22.0% mothers had poor knowledge while 45.6% and 32.4% had average and good knowledge respectively. There was significant association of knowledge with number of children as analyzed by  $\chi^2$  value of 12.892 significant at 0.05 level of significance.

There was no significant association of knowledge with age, educational status, occupation, religion, type of family and monthly income.

## CONCLUSION

There was no significant association of knowledge with age, educational status, occupation, religion,

type of family and monthly income. The association between knowledge with socio-demographic variables. In this, there is significant association of knowledge with number of children as analyzed by  $\chi^2$  value of 12.892 significant at 0.05 level of significance.

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