

A Study to Assess the Impact of COVID-19 on Health Care Seeking Behaviour among Antenatal Mothers in Selected Grama Panchayath, Thrissur

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ABSTRACT

“Birth is about making mothers strong, competent, capable mothers who trust themselves and know their inner strength.”

The health of women during their pregnancy and delivery is vital for the mother and their children. During this on-going Global coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic people in different regions of the world have been greatly affected. Pregnancy women face a dilemma during this period since they need professional antenatal care while there are high infection risks of several respiratory syndrome coronavirus. The present study focusses on assessing the level of impact of COVID-19 on health Care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers in selected Gram panchayat, Thrissur.

KEYWORDS: Impact, COVID 19, Health Care seeking behaviour, Antenatal mothers

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INTRODUCTION

“Birth is about making mothers strong, competent, capable mothers who trust themselves and know their inner strength.”

Pregnancy is the time to promote healthy behaviours and good parenting skills. Antenatal care presents the first contact opportunity for women to connect with formal health services. Antenatal care needs to be individualized to meet the requirements of the mother and foetus.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The emergence of a pandemic presents challenges and opportunities for health care, health promotion interventions, and overall improvement in healthcare

seeking behaviour. The birth of a child is a critical and potentially stressful experience for women, entailing several changes both at the individual and interpersonal level. This event can lead to different forms of distress, ranging in intensity and duration. The current pandemic emergency and the restrictive measures adopted by local governments to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection may negatively affect mothers-to-be and new mothers potentially increasing the likelihood of anxiety, depression or post-traumatic symptoms to develop. Moreover, the forced quarantine combined with the limited access to professional or family support may increase feelings of fatigue and isolation.

The COVID-19 pandemic is posing considerable challenges for countries to maintain the provision of high quality essential maternal and new-born health services. Pregnant women and mothers with new-borns may experience difficulties accessing services due to transport disruptions and lockdown measures or be reluctant to come to health facilities due to fear of infection. Hence the researchers identified the impact of COVID 19 on health care seeking behaviour and decided to conduct research about impact of COVID 19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A study to assess the impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers in selected Gram panchayat, Thrissur.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers.
- To associate the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare Seeking behaviour in antenatal mothers with their selected demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- **IMPACT:** Impact in this study refers as the effect of COVID-19 on healthcare Seeking behaviour s among antenatal mothers.
- **HEALTH CARE SEEKING BEHAVIOURS:** A sequence of remedial actions taken to correct perceived ill health.
- **ANTENATAL MOTHERS:** Antenatal mothers are those who in the period from the start of pregnancy to the onset of labour.
- **COVID-19:** Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-COV-2 virus.

HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant association between the health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers with selected demographic variables.

ASSUMPTIONS

- COVID-19 may have an impact on health care seeking behaviour of antenatal mothers.
- Impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mother may be influenced by their selected demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodology adopted to assess the impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers in selected Grama panchayat, Thrissur. The research methodology includes research approach, research design, setting of the study, population, sampling technique, sample size, sampling criteria, description of the tool, validity of the tool, pilot study, methods of data collection, plan for data analysis and interpretation.

RESEARCH APPROACH

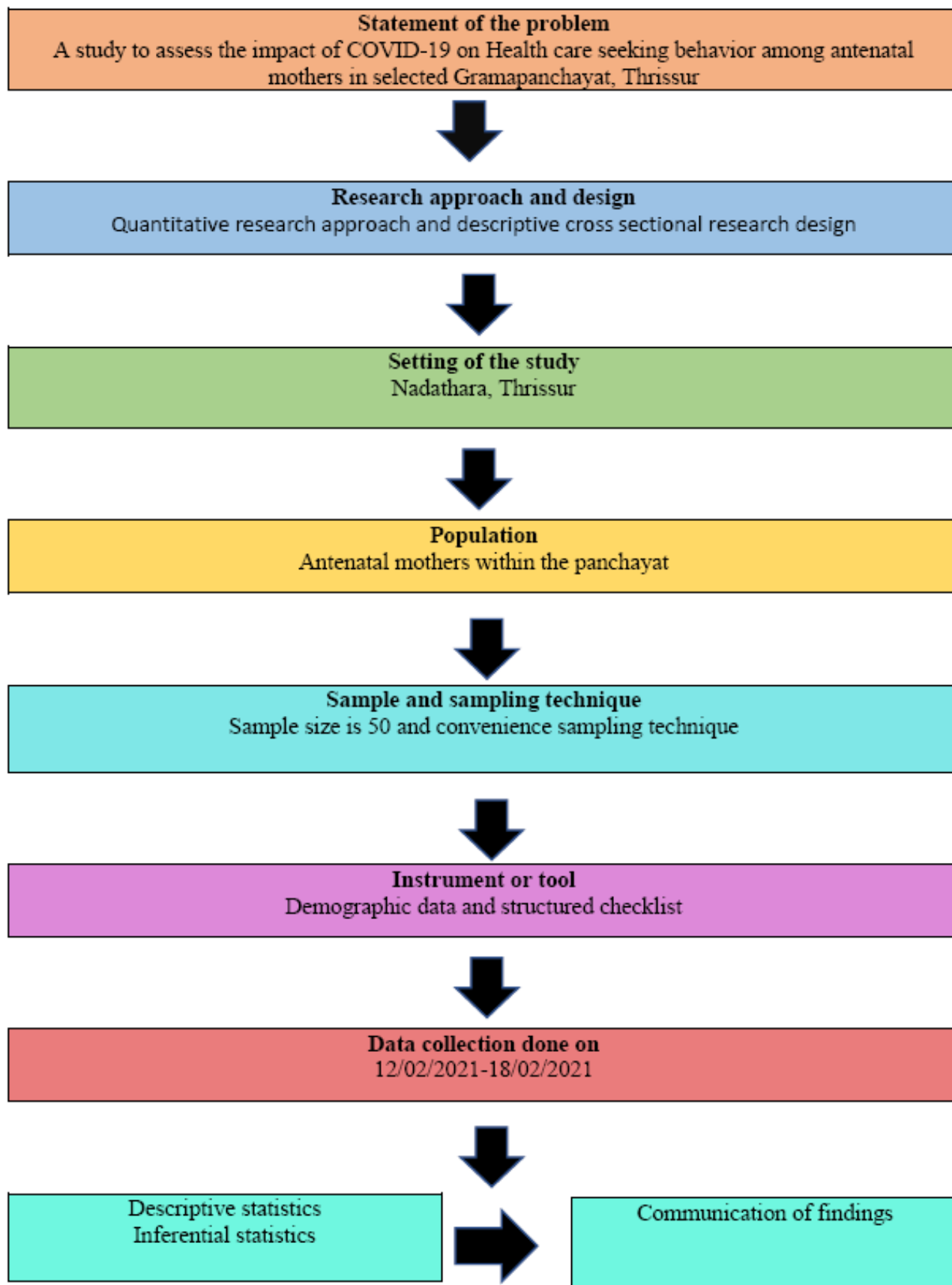
The research approach is an important element of research design, which governs it. Research approach involves the description of the plan to investigate the phenomenon under study in a structured, unstructured or combination of the two methods. There for the approach helps to decide about the presence of or absence as well as manipulation and control over variables. In view of the nature of the problem related to this study and the objectives to be accomplished, and a quantitative approach was selected.

RESEARCH DESIGNS

The research design is the master plan which specifies true method and procedure for collecting and analysing the needed information in a research study and the researchers overall plan for obtaining answer to the research questions it spells out strategies that the researcher adopted to develop information that is adequate, accurate, objective and interpretable²⁶. The research design of the present study is descriptive design.

SETTING OF THE STUDY

Setting is the physical location and condition in which data collection takes place in the study. The present study was conducted through google form in selected grama panchayath. carries approximately 63 antenatal mothers.



Schematic representation of the study

THE SAMPLE

Sample is a subset of population selected to participate in the research study.

SAMPLE SIZE

In this study the sample size comprised of 50 antenatal mothers in selected Grama Panchayat Thrissur.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Sampling technique is the process of selecting a part of the assigned population to represent the entire population being studied. In the present study samples were selected by convenience sampling method.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SAMPLE:

Inclusion criteria

- Antenatal mothers who were
- Willing to participate in the study
- Available at the time of data collection
- Able to read and write English
- Able to use smart phone

Exclusion criteria

- Not willing to participate in the study
- Not able to read and write English
- Unable to handle smart phones
- Working as health care professionals

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

The tool to collect data from the selected samples consist of two sections

Section A: Demographic data of samples.

The demographic data of mothers consists of 15 variable - Age, educational status, occupational status, monthly income, type of family, area of living, number of pregnancies, number of abortions, history of pregnancy complications, health insurance schemes, waiting time to see the doctor, distance to the hospital, mode of transport to the hospital, previously participated in a network-based health education and month of pregnancy.

Section B: Structured checklist on impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers.

It includes 30 questions. Each question has three alternative responses such as Agree, somewhat agree, disagree.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

A formal permission to conduct the study was obtained from the principal, Aswini College of Nursing. The data collection period was from 12/2/2021 to 18/02/2021. The investigators selected samples from Nadathara Grama panchayat by convenience sampling. The investigator selected a total of 50 samples within 6 days. Asha Worker Mrs. Lucy Nelson helped us to get in contact with the antenatal mothers in various wards of Nadathara Panchayat. We approach them with the help of online platform by sending consent along with the Google form through wats up. The confidentiality was maintained through the procedure and right to withdraw from the 27 courses of the study if they so desire was assured and human rights were protected. All samples cooperated well during data collection.

RESULTS

The findings are explained on the basis of the following headings:

Table 1: Score interpretation

| Level of impact | Scoring range | Percentage interpretation (%) |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Impact | ≤45 | 70% |
| No Impact | ≥45 | 30% |

The Table:2 shown below illustrate the association between the level of impact of COVID19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers with their selected demographic variables such as monthly income, area of living, waiting time to see the doctor, distance to hospital and mode of transport to the hospital.

Table: 2 Association between the level of impact of COVID19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers with their selected demographic variables such as monthly income, area of living, waiting time to see the doctor, distance to hospital and mode of transport to the hospital

| Sl. No | Demographic variable | χ^2 | Table value |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 | Monthly income | 8.894 | 5.9915 |
| 2 | Area of living | 4.9 | 3.8415 |
| 3 | Waiting time to see the doctor | 27.19 | 7.81 |
| 4 | Distance to the hospital | 4.9 | 3.8415 |
| 5 | Mode of transport to the hospital | 8.612 | 3.8415 |

*Significant at 0.05 level

- With reference to the monthly income, the calculated Chi square value 8.894 and table value is 5.9 915 which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and Research hypothesis is accepted.
- According to the area of living, the calculated Chi square value 4.9 and tab table value is 3.8415 which is significant at 0.05 level and the null hypothesis is rejected and Research hypothesis is accepted.
- With reference to the waiting time to see the doctor the calculated Chi square value 27.9 3 and the table value is 7.81 which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and Research hypothesis is accepted.
- With respect to the distance to the hospital, the calculated chi square value is 4.9 and the table value is 3.8 415 which is significant at 0.05 level hence the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is accepted.
- Considering the mode of transport to the hospital the calculated chi square value is 8.412 table value is 3.8 415 which is significant at 0.05 level.

Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is accepted.

SUMMARY

This chapter deals with a brief account of the discussion of the findings in accordance with objectives of the study and the hypothesis, summary, recommendations, possible implications of the result and conclusion drawn from the findings.

The birth of a child is the critical and potentially stressful experience for women, entailing several changes both at the individual and interpersonal level. The current pandemic emergency and the restrictive measures adopted by local Government to prevent the spread of the coronavirus infection led to limited accessibility to health care facilities good pregnancy related care is permanent for the health of an expectant mother and the normal development of the foetus. Effective ANC visits are essential for both maternal and foetal health.

The aim of the study was to assess the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers. The study reached in a conclusion that there was an impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers.

The main objectives of the study were

- To assess the impact of COVID-19 on health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers.
- To associate the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare Seeking behaviour in antenatal mothers with their selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis framed for the study were

There is a significant association between the health care seeking behaviour among antenatal mothers with selected demographic variables.

This was a descriptive study with a sample size of 50 antenatal mothers from selected Grama panchayath Thrissur, which was selected by non-probability convenience 64 sampling techniques. The tool used for data collection consist of 2 sections; they are demographic variables, structured checklist. Based on objectives the data was analysed by using both descriptive and inferential statistical method.

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