

A Study on Prenatal Care and Complications During Pregnancy Among Muslim Women of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT Proper preventive and diagnostic care during pregnancy and delivery can prevent many unexpected problems or deaths of mothers and children. This study aimed to examine the utilisation of prenatal care services (PCS) and complications during pregnancy and the associated factors influencing the utilisation of PCS. It is a cross-sectional study on Muslim women in rural Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal, India. A total of 149 women were selected through purposive sampling. Data was collected through a structured schedule and interview method. While statistical testing p-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Most women (89.93%) registered their pregnancy within 12 weeks (early registration). Most participants (75.84%) utilised more than four prenatal check-ups. Except few participants, all others took TT injections (97.99%), IFA tablets (98.66%), calcium tablets (99.33%), blood pressure check-ups (97.32%), urine tests (95.30%), and haemoglobin tests (95.30%). Full prenatal check-ups (all tests were done) are used by 21.50 percent of women. Few women had complications during pregnancy like excessive swelling (5.37%), urination problem (2.68%), jaundice (2.01%), low blood pressure (1.35%), anaemia (1.34%) and others. The women's age group and education were significantly associated with total prenatal care. Though most women are taking prenatal and pregnancy care services, few still do not utilise these essential services, and this problem may be solved by increasing awareness through different awareness programs and mass media.