

Factors influencing the Utilization of Maternal Health Care Services in Uttarakhand

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ABSTRACT The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III 2005-06) provided a gloomy picture of the status of maternal health indicators of Uttarakhand. The state has witnessed a higher proportion of high risk pregnancies. A large number of births take place outside the health system (67.4 percent), the majority being attended by untrained dais (midwives). These have resulted in higher maternal morbidity and mortality. Therefore, the present paper attempts to find out the possible factors influencing the use of maternal health care services, using the data from NFHS III. Both bi-variate and multivariate analysis have been carried out for the study by taking ante-natal care and delivery care as dependant variables. The result reveals that the educational level of women, birth order and wealth index are significant predictors in explaining ante-natal and delivery care. Controlling the effect of other variables, the predictive power of women's educational level, wealth index have been positively associated with antenatal care and also delivery care.