

A Study of Reproductive and Child Health among the Dhur Gond Tribal Community of Mahasamund District, Chhattisgarh, India

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ABSTRACT Present cross-sectional study was conducted to understand the pregnancy related women reproductive health, infant and child mortality and also to assess the nutritional status of mother and under five children among Dhur Gond tribal community of Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh, India. 174 ever married women and 68 under five children were selected for the present study. Pre-structured schedule was used to collect socio-economic, demographic, reproductive health including ante-natal care, delivery practices etc. Weight of under five children and height and weight of mother were measured by standard techniques. Weight for age was calculated for assessing child nutritional status using NCHS standard, body mass index (BMI) was used to assess for mother nutritional status. Results revealed that high percentages of mother had not taken ante-natal checkup (51.72%), tetanus injection (41.38%) and iron and folic acid tablets (56.32%) during pregnancies. 94.83 percent deliveries performed at home and 57.47 percent birth were done mainly by untrained *dai* (traditional birth attendant's). Infant and child mortality rate was 5.92 and 4.28 per 100 live births respectively. 47.12 percent of mothers were undernourished (BMI <18.5 kg/m²) and all the children were suffered from malnutrition. Grades II and III malnutrition were higher among girls compared to boys. Poor health status during child bearing period, low ante-natal care, high deliveries at home along with high prevalence of undernutrition of underfive children and mothers. These are mainly due to low socio-economic condition, high illiteracy, lack of awareness among Dhur Gond tribal community.