

MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS IN UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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Abstract

India accounts for about one-quarter of maternal deaths worldwide with the highest maternal mortality ratio in the most populous (186.7 million) state of Uttar Pradesh. More than half of the women in U. P. report one or more maternal complications and around 80 percent of maternal deaths is attributable to complications of pregnancy and childbirth, or are caused by any interventions, omissions, incorrect treatment or events that result from these complications. In the present paper data from the RCH-DLHS-2 has been used to examine the impact of demographic factors, socio-economic, health status, health seeking behaviour and regions on maternal complications. Multivariate analysis reveals that most of these background characteristics have a significant relationship with maternal complications.

Introduction

Every year worldwide, an estimated 600,000 women die of complications of pregnancy and delivery, a rate of over 1,600 maternal deaths¹ each day (WHO, 1999). For each woman who dies as the result of pregnancy complications in developing countries, as many as 20-40, or even more women sustain serious, unbearable injuries (Koblinsky et al., 1993; Weinstein, 1997).

In the developing countries pregnancy and delivery related complications (maternal causes) are the leading cause of disability and death among women aged 15-44 years. About 18 percent of burden of disease for women aged 15-44 years in the developing countries is due to the maternal causes (World Bank, 1993). Over 100,000 Indian women die annually from pregnancy and childbirth related causes, thus accounting for one-quarter of maternal deaths worldwide (Ramarao et al., 2001). This is the highest burden for any single country in the world (Agarwal, 2005). The most recent statistics

¹Maternal deaths are deaths from pregnancy-related complications occurring throughout pregnancy, delivery and in the period of post-partum i.e. within 42 days of delivery

indicate an average maternal mortality ratio of 301 per 100,000 live births at the national level with the highest maternal mortality ratio in the state of Uttar Pradesh (RGI, 2006).

The objectives of this paper are to examine the prevalence of complications during maternity in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) and to analyze the factors which influence maternal complications in U. P. The factors have been categorized as demographic, socio-economic, health status, health seeking behaviour and regions. Results of the bi-variate and multivariate analysis are presented to determine the factors that influence maternal complications so as to suggest programme interventions to reduce its level in India.

Data

In the DLHS-RCH Round II, all currently married women in the age group of 15-44 years were asked questions about their health problems during pregnancy, delivery and post delivery. To effectively use the data, all the complications occurring during pregnancy, delivery and post delivery are categorized together to construct the category of complication during maternal period.

Results

Women suffering from any complication during maternal period amount to 54.2 percent. The association between women suffering from complications occurring during the entire maternal period by selected background characteristics has been computed. Almost all the associations are significant.

The analyses reveal that younger and older women are more likely to experience various maternal complications. Women with 3-4 CEB and women with 5+ CEB have lower odds of suffering from these complications than women with 2 or less than 2 CEB.

Our analyses reveal that non-Hindu women are significantly less likely to have difficulties during pregnancy, delivery and post delivery, than Hindu women. Surprisingly SC/ST women are less likely to mention pregnancy and post delivery complications than OBC women. Women

residing in urban area are more likely to report complications occurring during maternal period than women residing in rural area. As the standard of living and husband's year of schooling increases, probability of woman suffering from various maternal complications also increases.

Pregnancy wastage affects complications occurring during maternal period considerably. This study shows that women with prior history of pregnancy wastage are expected to suffer fewer complications during maternal period than women who do not have such history.

The multivariate analyses reveal that as the intensity of ANC increases, women's likelihood of suffering from maternal complications decreases. A woman having an institutional delivery has less likelihood to go through maternal difficulties than a woman who has a non-institutional delivery. A woman whose delivery is conducted by a professional is less likely to suffer delivery and post delivery complications than a woman whose delivery is conducted by non-professionals.

An exogenous variable taken in the study i.e. region (Eastern, Western, Central and Bundelkhand region) has proved to be a defining variable for complications taking place during the duration of maternity. Woman belonging to Central and Eastern region of Uttar Pradesh are less likely to undergo maternal complications than women residing in Western region, but women residing in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh have higher chances of experiencing maternal complications.

References:

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