

# A Study on The Awareness of Utilization of Reproductive And Child Health Services in The Selected Villages of Pune City

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## Abstract Objectives

To assess the knowledge of the women on Reproductive and Child Health, practices on family planning and the utilization of health services and to find the association between knowledge on RCH with selected variables.

## Method

Descriptive cross sectional study was conducted among married women of reproductive age group in the selected villages of Pune city. The study subjects were interviewed through a questionnaire.

## Result

Out of 120 women majority (84.2%) had a good knowledge on RCH, and are belonged to the age group of 25-30 years (38.3%). Ninety four percent of women had obtained information from health personnel and 77% of women were practicing different kind of family planning methods. Conclusion The population covered for the study had good knowledge and found 100% utilization of health services during antenatal, natal, postnatal periods and during immunization of children. Key words RCH, knowledge, practice, utilization and family planning.

Keywords; Child Health, Reproductive, Pune

## Introduction

In India, women belonging to 15-45 years of age and children below 15 years of age together constitute nearly 65 percent of the total population of the country and are considered to be a vulnerable group. In order to achieve health of the mother and children, the RCH programme was launched on October 15, 1997. The focus of the programme was to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality with emphasis on rural health care<sup>1</sup>. The RCH approach places special emphasis on client oriented need based and high quality integrated services<sup>2</sup>. India is the second most populous country in the world. India's population is projected to reach 1.53 billion by the year 2050. In India, a baby is born every 1.25 second. Couple protection rate is still only 41%. At least 20,000 women are dying annually due to abortion related complications and most of these deaths are preventable<sup>3</sup>. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has set the target of achieving only 200 maternal deaths per lakh of live births by 2007 and 109 per lakh of live births by 2015. With increasing age, women experiences more sexual life, pregnancies, gynecological surgery and deliveries etc, which make the women vulnerable for RTI. Through adult education and social education, the awareness and importance of utilization of MCH care aspect may be imparted to the adults as well as to the couple in the reproductive age to promote the health of the mother and child.<sup>10</sup> The impact of such programmes on the knowledge levels of the women must be monitored closely and can be measured. Keeping this in mind, a study was conducted to assess the knowledge on RCH, practice of family planning and utilization of health services of married women in Udipi district of Karnataka State.

## Materials and methods

A community based cross sectional descriptive survey study was carried out during December 2022 to January 2023 in wagholi village of Pune. A non probability purposive sampling was used to select 120 married women by using structured and validated questionnaire on knowledge, practice and utilization of health services.

The Inclusion criteria were the married women with children between the age group of 18-45 years, residing in the villages, willing to participate and present at home during the time of study. The exclusion criteria were unmarried women and who cannot read Kannada. Demographic Proforma consisted of age, education, income, age at marriage, married life, and total number of children, religion, and source of information.

A structured questionnaire consisting of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) was developed to assess the knowledge of women regarding RCH with maximum score of 49 and minimum score of zero. Knowledge scores were arbitrarily classified as low (0-16), average (17-32) and good (33-49) level. Family planning practices and utilization of health services questionnaires were developed to gather the information regarding family planning practices and service utilization.

The reliability of the tools were determined by test retest method. The reliability co-efficient was  $r=0.90$ . Administrative permission was obtained to collect the data from the concerned authorities. A written consent was also obtained from the eligible participants for this study and the data was collected between December 2007 and January 2008. The data was analyzed using descriptive (frequency and percentage) and inferential statistics (t-test). The analysis was done based on objectives and hypothesis.

## Results

Among 120 women, 38.3% belonged to the age group of 25- 30 years, 50% of women and 47% of their husbands had education up to high school. Thirty seven percent of women had a monthly income above Rs.5000. Eighty eight percent of women got married after 20 years. Fifty five percent belonged to 1-8 years of duration of married life and 56.7% of women were having two children norm . The study showed that the majority (94.2%) of women obtained information on RCH from health personnel and 4.2% by internet .International Journal of Nursing Education. July - Dec. 2010, Vol. 2, No. 2 29 Study also revealed that 84.2% of women had good knowledge and 15.8% had average level of knowledge on RCH. The difference between mean of the total knowledge score across the selected variables such as age of the women ( $t(118) = 0.043$  P Study also revealed that 84.2% of women had good knowledge and 15.8% had average level of knowledge on RCH. The difference between mean of the total knowledge score across the selected variables such as age of the women ( $t(118) = 0.043$  P<0.05), education of husband ( $t(118) = 0.044$  P<0.05) and source of information by friends ( $t(118) = 0.005$  P<0.05) were found statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis was rejected on regard to these variables and alternative hypothesis was accepted. Other variables such as education of women, income, type of family, age at marriage and source of information such as newspaper, magazines, television, radio, internet, health personnel, family members and neighbours were not found statistically significant . With regard to family planning, 77% of women were practicing different kind of family planning methods and 23% of women were not practicing any kind of family planning method. Out of 77% of women, 45% were practicing permanent method and 32.5% were practicing temporary method of family planning. Majority (38.46%) of the couples was practicing condom as family planning and only 5% of women were using oral contraceptive pills for family planning. Data show that the reason for not practicing family planning methods (n=27) were, 48% of women expressed that their husbands were living away from them and 4% of women underwent hysterectomy (Fig 1). Regarding the problems faced by the women (n=9) after practicing family planning, 45% of women complained of backache, 11% had weakness, 33% had problem of heavy menstrual flow and 11% had gastritis problem. Most of the (83%) of women reported that both husband and wife were jointly taking decision for family planning whereas, 7.14% of women took decision for family planning by themselves (Table 2).The analysis revealed that there was 100% utilization of health services during antenatal, natal, postnatal periods and also during immunization for children at the age of 12-23 months. The study also revealed that, out of 120 women, only 6 women delivered at home with the help of ANM and the rest delivered in government as well as in private hospitals Discussion and conclusion In the present study out of 120 women, 64.2% belonged to an age group of 30 years and

above, 70% had education till SSLC and 93% had 1 to 2 children. Regarding source of information, 87.5% of women got the information on RCH by television and 68.3% by family members. This supports the study findings by Fernandes J, who reported that 52% of the women belonged to 31-40 years and 80% had education upto SSLC, 68.3% belonged to middle socioeconomic status and 95% had 1 to 2 children<sup>4</sup>. Halder A reported in their study that, 56.69% of women had two child family norms and 32.05% of women got the knowledge on reproductive health from television<sup>5</sup>. Knowledge on RCH The findings of present study showed that 84.2% of women had good knowledge and 15.8% had average knowledge on RCH. Similar findings were reported in a study conducted by Reena S. who found that 82.2% of women were aware of permanent method of family planning for females<sup>6</sup>. Grover VL found in their study that, 71.1% of respondents had good knowledge about breast feeding<sup>7</sup>. Rasanla SK found in their study that 69.8% of the mothers had knowledge regarding the role of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) during diarrhea<sup>8</sup> and Ray SK found in their study that, the knowledge regarding need for maternal care during pregnancy was 81%<sup>9</sup>. Dawn found in their study that there is association between knowledge on RTI with their age ( $\chi^2(2)=12.25, p<0.01$ )<sup>10</sup> and Nandan found in their study that, the association between prevalence of RTI/STDs and age group was found to be statistically significant ( $\chi^2(2)=13.43, p<0.01$ )<sup>11</sup>.

#### On Family planning practice

Seventy seven percent of women were practicing different kind of family planning methods and 23% were not practicing any kind of family planning method. The 11% of the women reported that their desire to have more children was the reason for not practicing any kind of family planning methods. Eighty three percent of women reported that both husband and wife were jointly taking decision for family planning. This supports the study by Uthup MJ who found that 59% of rural women were practicing permanent method<sup>12</sup>. Reena S reported in their study that, 34.5% of couples practiced condom followed by the natural methods (26.2%) and oral contraceptive pills (18.9%)<sup>6</sup>. Halder revealed in their study that, 46.79% did not favor any family planning method and decision making regarding child birth by both husband and wife was favored by 41.67%<sup>5</sup>. Shah NJ found in their study that the desire to have (69.7%) a child is the reason for not practicing family planning methods<sup>13</sup>.

#### Utilization of health services

Data found in the present study revealed that, there was 100% utilization of health services by the women during pregnancy as well as child birth. Out of 120 women only six delivered at home with the help of trained Dai. This study supports the findings by Manjunath U who reported that 50% of children were fully immunized, and in the pulse polio programme two doses of vaccine were received by 165 children out of 166<sup>14</sup>. Venkatesh RR found in their study that, 35.9% of the women had utilized all the three services i.e. antenatal, intranatal and postnatal completely<sup>15</sup>. A study done by Agrawal who found that 94% females delivered at home with the help of traditional dai and that 93% had received tetanus toxoid injections during antenatal period<sup>16</sup>. Talwar R in their study in New Delhi reported that 54.6% of women had received two doses of T.T during pregnancy<sup>17</sup>. This study can conclude that rural mothers of selected area had the awareness on RCH and their utilization of health services. Community health nurses can play a vital role in health care delivery system especially in rural areas. Implication for nursing education would be greater emphasized on motivation to have reduced mortality and morbidity among mother and children. Community health nurses should encourage the involvement of families, communities and adolescents in taking their health problem in the primary health concept of 'people's health in a people's hand'.

#### Recommendation

- Replication of same study on a large sample may help to draw conclusions that are more definite and can be generalized to a larger population.
- Replication of similar study may be conducted by selection of samples by random sampling method

- A comparative study may be undertaken between urban and rural areas to determine the utilization of health services especially on immunization coverage on children below five years of age and women during pregnancy.
- An evaluative study can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness/coverage of RCH programme.

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