

Disparity in utilization and expectation of community-based maternal health care services among women in Myanmar: a cross-sectional study

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Abstract

Background: Aim of this study is to assess women's utilization and expectation of community-based antenatal and delivery care services in Myanmar and determine associated factors for disparity of services received with services women expected to receive.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 6-month postpartum women in three townships of Myanmar during May–September 2016. Associated factors for the services with disparity were identified using multinomial logistic regression models.

Results: Of 1743 women, the percentages of antenatal care (ANC) attended by a skilled provider, at least four ANC visits, and early ANC were 89, 60 and 36%, respectively. The percentage of non-facility delivery was 65%. Many ANC services received and services expected to receive had lower than 80% coverage. Services with significant disparity included blood hemoglobin and urinary protein testing, and iron supplementation. Low access to ANC, women's socio-economic status, pregnancy and delivery complications, and out-of-pocket cost were associated with disparity of these services.

Conclusion: Utilization and expectation of community-based ANC services and facility delivery is low in Myanmar. Disparities of the services received with the services women expected to receive were common in ANC. Improving women's expectations on essential services during pregnancy is needed as well as strengthening community participation.

Keywords community-based, disparity, expectation, maternal health care services, utilization