

Quality of antenatal care provided by midwives in selected townships of Upper Myanmar

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Abstract

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in two selected townships of Upper Myanmar from 1st August 2012 to 31st July, 2013 to determine the quality of antenatal care (ANC) provided by midwives (MWs) at sub-centers (SCs). Study was conducted only in 10 SCs. SCs were assessed with facility audit checklist, ten midwives providing ANC were assessed through non-participatory observation, one hundred pregnant mothers participated in exit-interview and sixty pregnant mothers involved in 10 Focus Group Discussion Sessions (FGDs). Out of ten SCs, all health facilities had their owned water supply from tube-well. Seven had toilet and only three had available electricity. The majority (64.0%) of performance of MWs on ANC was fair and 16.0% were excellent. About half of pregnant mothers received ANC at early gestation, 52% at two-month and 43% at three-month respectively. Pregnant mothers suggested in FGDs to provide adequate Clean Delivery Kits with free-of-charge or at a reasonable price and to provide adequate Home Based Maternal Records either in good quality or in low-price quality. In conclusion, the majority of MWs were providing ANC services with a certain level of quality within the limited resource setting at the rural communities. To improve the quality of ANC, it is needed to update the existing level of SCs to be well-equipped comprehensive health facilities and furnish with essential supplies to provide a quality ANC.