

Utilization of skilled health personnel during pregnancy and childbirth in “Wa” ethnic group

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to assess the utilization of skilled health personnel during pregnancy and childbirth in “Wa” ethnic minority and their reasons for the choice of health care provider among “Wa” mothers from urban and rural area of Hopan Township. Cross- sectional community- based study design was used. Hopan Township in northern Shan State was selected as study area. A total of 360 mothers were interviewed by using structured questionnaire. Two hundred and sixty seven mothers (74.2%) contacted skilled health personnel for antenatal care. About 25.8% of mothers in the study did not contact skilled health personnel for antenatal care and the main reasons were that they did not think they need any antenatal care and poor socioeconomic conditions of the family. It is remarkable that only 3.2% gave reason for language problem. About 232(64.4%) mothers gave births by skilled birth attendant, mostly midwives. Most of the mothers decided to deliver at home. Over 35% of mothers in rural area gave birth with their mothers, mother in laws, neighbours, self and husband. Mothers residing in urban area used skilled health personnel more than those mothers residing in rural area. Educated mothers also used skilled health personnel compared to uneducated mothers. Poor mothers were less likely to use skilled health personnel. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in urban area were more than that of rural area during childbirth. Thus utilization of skilled birth attendants in rural community of ethnic minority group should be encouraged.

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