



A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MATERNAL HEALTH SITUATION IN 22 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES: USING FACTSHEETS OF NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY 5 AND 4

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INTRODUCTION

The term maternal well-being refers to the consistent support given to women during the course of pregnancy, childbirth, and the post-partum period, commonly known as the baby blues phase. This encompasses comprehensive services related to family planning, early prenatal care, childbirth, and postnatal considerations. The aim is to guarantee a safe and supportive experience for mothers at every stage, minimize untoward incidents, and reduce mortality rates in certain cases.[1] Maternal health is alarmed with the well-being and health of women, particularly during pregnancy, conception, and child rearing. According to the World Health Organization, notwithstanding the fact that motherhood is widely observed as a rewarding and exciting typical experience for mothers, a great numeral of women faces frequent encounters, including poor health and in some cases, death. [2] As a result, it is compulsory to devote resources to the advancement of women [3]. The speculation is characteristically accepted out in a variety of ways, the most mutual of which are paying the cost of medical services, providing education on maternal health, facilitating effective family planning, and ensuring dynamic define the state of the strength of women with children. [4]

The well-being of mothers and children is a crucial element for fostering a stable community. Improving maternal well-being is essential, the UNDP and MDG 4 and 5 specifically target the enhancement of maternal and child mortality rates (reducing child mortality and improving maternal health). Notwithstanding the fact that numerous international organizations and local governments have made significant efforts, progress has been slow. Maternal and newborn child mortality is caused by a variety of infections, the most shared of which being water-borne illnesses and HIV/AIDS. Apart from illnesses, a variety of social factors have also contributed to maternal mortality, such as poverty, inadequate sanitation, and dirty water, as well as women's societal status, lack of training, and so on. Due to poverty, many people have trouble getting the availability of high-quality healthcare services throughout pregnancy, typically from expensive private clinics. In open

clinics, health services must be of high quality, which is especially important when it comes to the treatment of pregnant women. [4]

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What was the present status of antenatal care service utilization in the 22 states and Union Territories of India, as indicated by data from NFHS 4 and 5?
2. What was the association between full antenatal care and Women empowerment?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate the connections between comprehensive antenatal care and women's empowerment.
2. To conduct a comparative examination of complete ANC across states utilizing data from NFHS 4 and 5.
3. To Contrast the advancements in ANC indicators with other elements within the continuum of maternal health.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was descriptive, relying on a desk review approach utilizing secondary data sourced from the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) 4 and 5 factsheets. The analysis focused on the 22 States and Union Territories for which NFHS 5 data was currently available. In terms of data analysis, the research employed MS Excel and SPSS to extract meaningful insights from the gathered information.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

According to the NFHS-5 fact sheet, there had been an enhancement in maternal health indicators across the states and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland,

Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, West Bengal (excluding Lakshadweep). This improvement was evident when compared to the NFHS-4 data.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the research underscore the importance of expectant mothers engaging in early prenatal care and availing themselves of the complete ANC package. Additionally, the study envisions an increase in institutional deliveries conducted by skilled professionals, leading to a decreased percentage of home deliveries.

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