



Perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care during Childbirth among Mothers

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ABSTRACT

Respectful maternity Care is an approach to care which emphasizes the fundamental rights of women, newborns and families. Women are vulnerable especially during labour and childbirth they are failure to receive respectful maternity care can result in negative experience including fear of childbirth & reduced vaginal childbirth and a desire to have caesarean section. A descriptive study research design was used to assess the perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth among mothers at Government Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore. The 110 mothers were selected based on the convenience sampling technique. The structured questionnaire was used to assess the level of perception on Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth. The tool consists of three categories like 1. Verbal abuse free, discriminatory free and dignified free, 2. Physical and Psychological abuse free care and 3. Compassionate care. The collected data were analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results shown that regarding the verbal abuse free, Discriminatory free and dignified free, all the mothers had 110(100%) poor perception. About the physical and psychological abuse free care, 97(88.18%) of mothers had poor perception and only 13 (11.82%) had moderate perception. The overall level of perception revealed that all the mothers, 110(100%) were had poor perception only. There is no association found between the level of perception regarding respectful maternity care during childbirth among mothers with their selected demographic variables. The study concluded that majority of the mothers had poor level of perception regarding Respectful Maternity care, so health care services has to more emphasis on the Disrespect and abuse free childbirth process. Future Maternal Health Policies need to address and ensure women's right to dignity in health care.

Key Words:

Respectful Maternity Care, Childbirth, verbal abuse, discriminatory free, Disrespect and abuse free.

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INTRODUCTION

Childbirth is the one of the most important and memorable events in the lives of women, and they should be supported by their caregivers and their companion of choices [1]. Respectful Maternity Care is universal rights of mothers and newborn which clarifies and clearly articulate the rights of women and newborns while receiving maternity care within the healthcare facility. Women's relationship with maternity care providers and maternity care system during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period is vitally important. Respectful Maternity Care has been promoted in recent years due to the importance of ethical, social, psychological and cultural aspect of childbearing among different population. Respectful maternity care which refers to care organized for and provided to all women in a manner that maintain their dignity, Privacy and confidentiality, ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment and enable informed choice and continues support during labour childbirth. The components of RMC include providing safe and timely care, nurturing positive interaction between midwives and women, protecting confidentiality, maintaining an active role in labor process, obtaining the women's consent before performing procedures, providing information regarding procedures to women, respecting patient privacy and promoting freedom of choices as it related to position for labor and birth. Recently the National Health Mission launched Laisha programme [2] and the goal of this programme is to provide the RMC to all pregnant women who attend the facility based care to reduce MMR and to improve quality of care during labour and childbirth. Research has shown that women who perceive receiving substandard and disrespectful care during childbirth are far less likely to seek future facility based birth care which places them and their newborn at risk. Moreover, women with negative

experience may also discourage others from seeking facility based care. Vulnerable women in low social economic position are at a greater risk to experience disrespectful care despite existing professional standard [3]. In this study is undertaken to assess the women's perception about RMC and to know the form of disrespect and abuse that prevail and also to identify the such behaviour (physical abuse, undignified care abandonment and discrimination based on the cultural group, social status, age) will enlighten the respective personnel to formulate the rules and regulations for the eradication of such ill manners in health premises and help to enhance the quality of maternity care and encourage women for facility-based childbirth [4].

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth among mothers at Government Headquarters, Cuddalore.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the level of perception on Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth among mothers.
- To find out the association between the level of perception of Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

The research approach adopted for the study was quantitative with descriptive research design. Totally 110 postnatal mothers were selected based on the convenience sampling technique [6]. This study was conducted in the postnatal ward, Government Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore. The instrument developed and used for the present study consist of two sections: Section A : It consists of 14 items related to demographic variables, Section B: It consists of structured questionnaire on perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care during Childbirth. The content validity of tool was established of expert judgments. The reliability of tool was established by interrater method. The main study was conducted from 05.04.2021 to 11.04.2021 and permission was obtained from the Joint Director at Government Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore. A formal written permission is also obtained from the Institution Ethics Committee and Institution Research Committee for conducting research. The informed consent was obtained from the mothers and assured for the confidentiality throughout the study. The demographic data were collected [7]. The structured questionnaire on perception of Respectful Maternity Care was administered for the mothers based on the interview schedule. The data collected from subject were compiled and analysis by using descriptive statistics such as number, percentage, mean and standard deviation to demographic variables. Inferential statistics such as chi- square were used it [8].

RESULTS

The majority of the postnatal mothers 45(40.9%) belongs to the age group of 21- 25 years. Most of them were 96 (87.3%) were belongs to Hindu religion. Only 28 (25.5%) were studied Higher Secondary School. Most of the mothers 90(81.8%)being as a House wife. The income of Rs. 5001 – 10000 were the highest 51(46.4%) in the mothers. Nuclear family was the majority 50 (45.5%) and 74 (67.3%) were residing in the rural areas. Only 50% of mothers were experienced childbirth and 59 (53.6%) had stayed in the hospital after delivery. Many mothers 78 (70.9%) was reported that female person only attended the delivery. Majority of mothers, 84(76.4%) did not develop any complications during pregnancy.

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of perception scores regarding respectful maternity care during childbirth among mothers.

(N = 110)

Knowledge	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Mean	SD
Verbal abuse free, Discriminatory free and Dignified free (VADDC)	9.0	11.0	10.51	0.52
Physical and Psychological Abuse free care (PPAC)	9.0	12.0	10.27	0.74
Overall	20.0	22.0	20.78	0.66

Table 1 depicts that the mean and standard deviation of level of perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care among mothers [9, 10]. With regard to verbal abuse, discriminatory free and dignified free (VADDC) the mean score was 10.51±0.52 with minimum score of 9.0 and maximum score of 11.0.

Regarding physical and psychological abuse free care (PPAC), the mean score was 10.27 ± 0.74 with minimum score of 9.0 and maximum score of 12.0. The overall level of perception revealed that the mean score was 20.78 ± 0.66 with minimum score of 20.0 and maximum score of 22. So every postnatal mother had poor level of perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care [11].

Figure 1 Distribution of Level of Perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth among mothers.

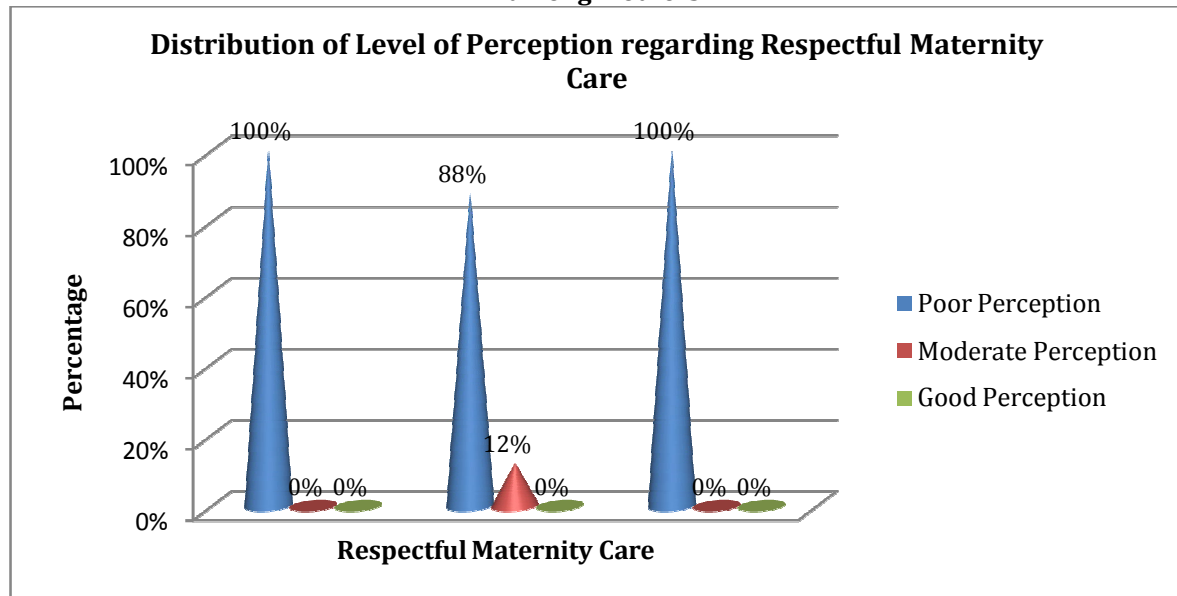


Figure 1. With regard the verbal abuse free, discriminatory free and dignified free (VADDC) shown that all of them 110(100%) had poor perception. Regarding physical and psychological abuse free care (PPAC), 97(88.18%) had poor perception and 13(11.82%) had moderate perception. The overall level of perception revealed that 110(100%) had poor perception.

DISCUSSION

All the mothers shown verbal abuse free, discriminatory free and dignified free (VADDC) 110(100%) had poor perception. Regarding physical and psychological abuse free care (PPAC), 97(88.18%) had poor perception and 13(11.82%) had moderate perception. The overall level of perception revealed that 110(100%) had poor perception. The nature and extent of reported disrespect and abuse by health providers in facility based childbirth among rural women of Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh [12]. The aim of the was to explore the frequency of the various types of disrespectful and abusive treatments by health providers that women experience during facility – based childbirth and the probable associated factors. They used STAHA questionnaire having a structured interview schedule along with a few open ended questions. Based on the simple random sampling 410 eligible women who had delivered in the past one year. The result shown the frequency of any disrespectful or abusive behaviour during facility – based childbirth was 118 (28.8%). The reported abuses were I non dignified care including verbal abuse (N=79, 19.3%), Physical abuse (N= 55, 13.4%), Neglect or abandonment (N = 35, 8.5%) Non confidential care (N = 23, 5.6%) and feeling humiliation due to the lack of cleanliness bordering of fifth (N= 20, 4.9%). There is a statistically significant association was found between presence of complication post – delivery for the baby and/or women and delivery at lower levels of government facilities.

There is no association found between the level of perception regarding respectful maternity care during childbirth among mothers with their demographic variables like Age in years, Religion of the mother, Educational status, Occupational status, monthly income, type of the family, residence of the mother, parity, previous childbirth, regular antenatal checkup, length of stay after delivery, members attended delivery and sex of the person who attend the delivery. KhadijeHajizadeh [13] had conducted a study on prevalence and predictors of perceived disrespectful maternity care in postpartum Iranian women. They were selected three public and here private hospitals in the city of Tabriz involving 334 postpartum women [14]. Tools included socio – demographic, pregnancy, labour, birth characteristics questionnaire and disrespect and abuse scales. Data were collected in 6 to 18 hour after birth. Results revealed that majority of women 253(75.7%) reported one or several types of perceived disrespectful maternity care. The most frequent types related to not allowing women to choose labour positions 142 (44.3%) and not

allowing them to move during labour 148 (42.5%). Night time childbirth increased the likelihood of perceived disrespectful maternity care. However, presence of spouses to accompany their wives in waiting rooms, the attendance of private physicians and midwives decreased the likelihood of perceived disrespectful maternity care [15].

CONCLUSION

Majority of the mothers had poor level of perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care during childbirth. Women also need to be educated about their rights and respectful maternity care principles in childbirth preparation classes. Every mother know that the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a statement on immediate attention for disrespect and abuse (D&A) during childbirth, which emphasized the importance of respectful maternity care (RMC) and women's rights during pregnancy and childbirth.

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