



Perception Of Postnatal Mothers Regarding Respectful Maternity Care Admitted In A Selected Hospital, Odisha- Pilot Study

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Abstract

Background: Respectful maternity care refers to care organized for and provided to all women in a manner that maintains their dignity, privacy and confidentiality, ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment, and enables informed choice and continuous support during labour and Childbirth.

Methods: A quantitative approach and Descriptive design was used. The sample size of 40 were selected by using Non-Probability; purposive sampling technique. Data were collected from the postnatal mothers after delivery by means of structured Perception Interview Schedule. Analysis was done using descriptive statistics.

Results: The findings of the study revealed that around 31(77.5%)mothers had negative perception towards respectful maternity care.

Conclusion: This Study concluded that the there is urgent need to create awareness among women, health care providers regarding importance of respectful maternity care. .

Key words:-Perception,Respectful Maternity care, Postnatal Women, Pilot Study

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Introduction

Childbirth has been described as an intense psychological experience in a woman's lifetime that leaves her with vivid memories which may be positive or negative.¹ Women have described a positive childbirth experience as having control of their birth process and having trustful and supportive relationships during birth.^{2,3} Being treated disrespectfully or over-medicalisation of the birth process may result in negative experiences.⁴ Negative childbirth experiences may affect a woman's health and wellbeing long after childbirth, influencing the bonding period post-delivery and her future reproductive health decisions. Complications such as post-traumatic stress disorder have also been reported.^{5,6}

Respectful maternity care (RMC) received during childbirth can enhance a woman's positive experience. In addition to ensuring the clinical requirements of a safe childbirth process, the delivery of RMC helps to meet a woman's psychological and emotional childbirth needs. It is a rights-based approach to maternal care.⁷ Emphasis has been placed on RMC as a global priority in the last decade because it contributes to the overall quality of childbirth care experienced, and may be the missing link in ensuring continuous health facility delivery.⁸ Unfortunately, the basic rights underlying the global RMC norms may not be universally accepted. Local expectations of RMC may be lower, due to cultural differences, low self-perception, and structural power imbalances,⁹ factors which could negatively affect women's demand for RMC as currently defined.

The World Health Organization defines RMC as "care organised for and provided to all women in a manner that maintains their dignity, privacy and confidentiality, ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment, and enables informed choice and continuous support during labour and childbirth".¹²

Objectives-To assess the level of perception of postnatal mothers regarding RMC .

To associate the level of perception regarding RMC with the selected demographic and obstetrical variables of postnatal mothers

Methodology- A descriptive study was conducted among 40 postnatal mothers at the selected public hospital of Odisha. Perception regarding RMC was assessed with the help of structured interview schedule by the researcher. Total forty postnatal mothers were considered for this study and they were selected by purposive sampling technique. All the mothers those present during the time of data collection and had normal vaginal delivery without any complication were considered for the study. Oral and written consent was obtained from the mother before data collection. Researcher developed the tool after reviewing the literature . Tool was consists of two parts. Part one regarding socio demographic variables and part two was Perception Scale regarding RMC. It consist of five point likert scale to assess the perception of postnatal mothers' regarding respective maternity care . It has total seven areas with 24 statement. Each statement given score as 5,4,3,2, and 1 for strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree respectively. There are eight statements which are scored reversely. The total score is 120. Score 1-48 considered as negative perception, 49-72 considered as moderately positive perception and 73-120 considered as positive perception.

Data was collected after 24 hours of delivery as it was considered that the mother will feel comfortable to respond. It took around 15 to 20 mins for each mother. The collected data planned to analyse with descriptive statistics.

Result: In relation to age 4 (10%) were between <20years, 22(55%) were between 21-25years, 10(25%) were between 26-30years(Fig-1) and 4 (10%) were between >30 years, 40 (100%) were belong to Hindu. in relation to educational status 4 (10%) had primary education,18 (45%) were matriculate,14 (35%) had higher secondary education and 4(10%) had graduation and above qualification.32(80%) were from rural and 8 (20%) was between Rs.5001-10000 and 32 (80%) to urban habitat. 12(30%) of postnatal mothers were in ≤37 weeks of gestational age and 28 (70%) were in >37weeks of gestational age. 40(100%) of postnatal mothers were having regular antenatal check.18(45%) nos. of postnatal mothers had male baby and 22(55%) nos. had female baby. 40(100%) nos. of postnatal mothers had no source of information regarding RMC.

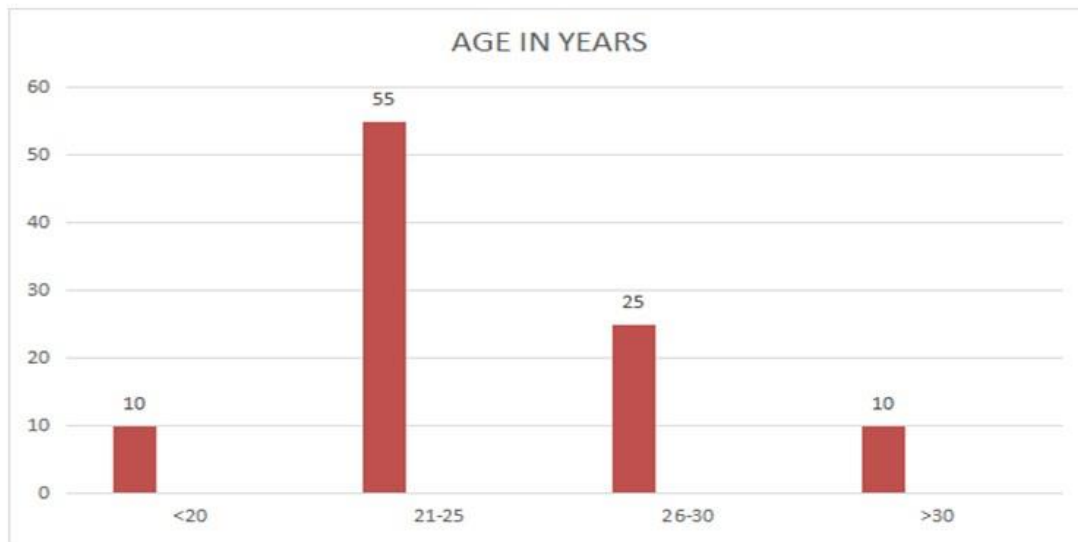


Fig-1- Percentage Distribution of Age of the Mothers

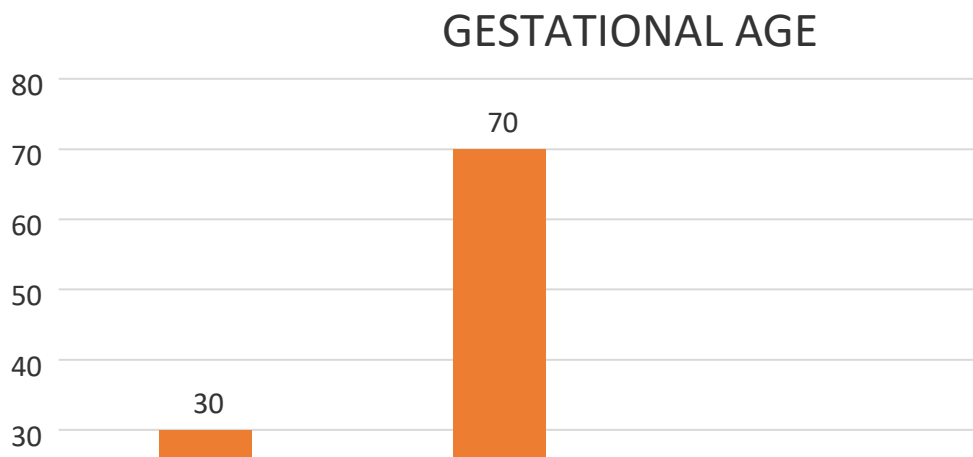


Fig-2- Percentage Distribution of Week of gestation of the Mothers

With regards to Perception of mothers regarding RMC it reveals that around 9(22.5%) postnatal mothers had moderately positive perception, 31(77.5%) had negative perception whereas none of the mother had positive perception regarding RMC .

LEVEL OF PERCEPTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Negative	31	77.5
Moderately Positive	9	22.5
Positive	0	0

DISCUSSION

The first objective study was to assess the perception of mothers regarding respectful maternity care. Among 40 mothers 31(77.5%) postnatal mothers had negative perception about Respectful Maternity Care. The second objectives of this study were to associate the selected demo-graphical variables with perception on respectful maternal care. Among all demographic variables association with the level of perception the only level of education found significant(0.041) at 0.05 , whereas all other variables found not significant . Present study result similar to the study conducted by **Sonam Deki, 2022 on “Women’s Views and Experience of Respectful Maternity Care While Delivering in three Regional Referral Hospitals of Bhutan”** reported that 41.8% mothers had dreadful experiences after child birth.

Conclusion

RMC is essential for pregnant women to optimize the quality of health care. Sometimes, healthcare providers may normalize disrespectful treatment during childbirth, which intrudes on basic human rights. As childbirth is a critical event in the life of a mother, traumatic childbirth experiences may negatively affect the mental and physical health of women. In this study, the participants had poor level of Knowledge regarding RMC during labor and childbirth. Most of them were not informed about their healthcare providers or were exposed to unnecessary interventions that negatively affected the mother and her child. Thus, participatory actions must be ensured by policymakers, leaders, and healthcare providers to promote RMC at public hospitals in Odisha. More and more awareness programmes can be organized to create awareness among mothers. There is need to improve on communication for information, permission, policy for dignity and privacy for women.

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