

Socio-Demographic Modelling of Maternal Mortality with Implications for Community Learning and Action.

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Abstract: Maternal mortality remains a serious global public health problem. The paper examines the socio-demographic factors associated with maternal mortality with implications for community learning and action in developing areas. The data analyzed were obtained from a sample of 20,467 women aged 15-49 years whose recent delivery occurred in the five years preceding the survey. Stata 12 computer software was used to carry out data analyses. Data analyses were done at univariate and bivariate levels. Results from the univariate analysis indicated that the proportion of mothers who did not deliver in a healthcare facility was (67 per cent) against the thirty per cent of mothers who delivered at a healthcare facility. About sixty-four per cent of the women did not indicate interest in seeking professional assistance. This was followed by 36 per cent of those who sought assistance. All the background variables at the bivariate levels showed their influence on the cost of the facility, except the place of residence ( $P = 0.808$ ). Contrariwise, all the variables relating to the distance to a healthcare facility were significant during delivery ( $P < 0.001$ ). This means that both availabilities of transport and healthcare facility cost are important proximate determinants through which socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors influenced maternal mortality risk. Based on these outcomes, we conclude that policies and community learning and action programs aimed at encouraging pregnant women to seek professional assistance should help to increase the prevalence of delivery in healthcare facilities, thereby reducing the risk of maternal mortality.

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