

## ABSTRACT

Proper antenatal care during pregnancy is important for the health of the mother and the development of the unborn baby. The first ANC visit should be as early as possible in pregnancy and up to 4 months. A cross sectional analytic study was conducted using semi-structured questionnaires. The information on socio-demographic and economic data, obstetric characteristics, proportion of delayed ANC, knowledge on antenatal, intra-natal and post-natal care of 333 pregnant mothers were collected by face to face interviews. This study aimed at the factors related to delayed ANC among pregnant mothers at 300-bedded General Hospital, Pyin Oo Lwin Township. The proportion of delayed ANC in pregnant mothers who took ANC at > 16 weeks gestation was 55.9% (95% CI: 50 - 61%). By residence, it was 51.1% (95% CI: 45 - 58%) in pregnant mothers from rural area and 67.3% (95% CI: 58 - 77%) in pregnant mothers from urban area. There were significant differences among the reasons such as they perceived that it is appropriate time, someone's advice, busy time, and according to the previous experiences with delayed ANC ( $p < 0.001$ ). Statistically significant associations were found to have between the education and occupation of pregnant mothers and delayed ANC, ( $p = 0.005$ ) and ( $p = 0.008$ ) respectively. More proportion of delayed ANC was found in pregnant mothers with low level education and dependents. There were significant associations between unintended pregnancy and delayed ANC ( $p < 0.001$ ), gravid and delayed ANC ( $p < 0.008$ ) and also between parity and delayed ANC ( $p < 0.001$ ). Pregnant mothers with more than one parity and unintended pregnancies were more delayed in taking first ANC visit. Nulliparous mothers took their first ANC earlier than other pregnant mothers. There was significant difference between knowledge on the most suitable time of taking first ANC visit and delayed ANC ( $p < 0.001$ ). Mothers with incorrect knowledge on time of taking first ANC visit had more delayed ANC visit. These findings indicated that the importance of early ANC and knowledge on first ANC visit yet to be disseminated among all pregnant mothers especially with more than one parity, and unintended pregnancies.