

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted in 2010 to explore the perceptions of and attitudes towards caesarean delivery among 200 urban pregnant women attending at four public antenatal care services in Patheingyi. Fifty women from each service were chosen by systematic random sampling method. Face-to-face interviews were conducted by using questionnaire containing 45 items. For the test of significance, independent t test and analysis of variance test (ANOVA), Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient test were used.

Majority of respondents preferred vaginal delivery in current pregnancy. Only one fifth of women got caesarean delivery information from health personnel. Misconceptions and personal preferences without medical indications of caesarean delivery mostly from close social networks were their perceived indications of caesarean delivery. Overall knowledge of caesarean delivery was poor. Knowledge score were significantly differed by antenatal care services, education level and occupation status of women and family income. Their knowledge of caesarean delivery was also varied with antenatal care providers and preferred place of delivery.

Overall positive perceptions of and attitudes towards caesarean delivery was found. Pregnant women's perceptions of and attitudes towards caesarean delivery were varied with family income, women's past delivery experience and their preferred mode and place of delivery in current pregnancy. The knowledge about caesarean delivery explained only 3.7% of perceptions of and attitudes towards caesarean delivery.

Relative risks and benefits of caesarean delivery compared with vaginal delivery and possible mode of delivery should be informed earlier in the pregnancy. Specific interventions to tackle the misconceptions and personal preferences of caesarean delivery without medical indications are suggested. Future qualitative or quantitative researches on perceptions of and attitudes towards caesarean delivery of health care providers as well as general population should be conducted.