ABSTRACT

In order to achieve MDG 5 of reducing maternal mortality at 2015, maternity waiting homes (MWHs) play an important role in helping risk pregnant mothers reach to nearest health care facility in time. MWHs are residential facilities, located near a qualified medical facility, where women defined as "high risk" can await their delivery and be referred to a nearby medical facility shortly before delivery or earlier when complications arise. The purpose of this study is to explore the utilization of Myeik MCWA MWH for better implementation of MWHs. Three years' record review (Mar 2007 to Feb 2010) of MWH and a community based cross-sectional study using a retrospective approach was conducted among post natal mothers attending to MWH (from June to August 2010). All 110 respondents were followed up and face to face interview were performed. Five in depth interviews and six key informant interviews were also conducted. This study revealed the utilization of Myeik MWH from various aspects namely background socio-demographic characteristics, obstetric characteristics, comprehensiveness of services, accessibility, affordability and the satisfaction of clients regarding to the services of MWH. The study found that the utilization of MWH services was increasing during the last three years. The majorities of respondents were between the ages of 17 to 34 years, above middle school level of education and came from low middle socio-economic status. ANC coverage was 93%. The comprehensive service was acceptable to majority of respondents with affordable price. Good communication skill and responsiveness of staff were the main reasons in choosing MWH for delivery by respondents. The respondents and community members suggested to reduce fees and to improve accommodation of MWH. Though it was functioning well, the main concepts and issues of MWH such as waiting like homes for high risk pregnancies from remote areas, referral services with liaison to the hospital and follow up examination were observed areas for improvement.