

ABSTRACT

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death and disability among women of reproductive age. Currently, safe motherhood programmes are scaling up birth-preparedness and complication readiness intervention to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. The purpose of this study is to explore the factors influencing birth preparedness and need for special care among pregnant women attending ANC at Insein General Hospital. A hospital based cross sectional analytic study was conducted among pregnant women attending ANC at Insein General Hospital in 2009. A total of 200 pregnant women were selected by systematic random sampling and face to face interviews were performed to them by using pre-tested structured questionnaire. This study reveals that knowledge on care of pregnancy, complications and danger signs of pregnancy were poor among pregnant women in this study. Forty one percent of respondents needed special care based on their specific health conditions or risk factors. These risk factors are found to be associated with age and education of pregnant women. Regarding birth preparedness and complication readiness, 99% of respondents had identified place for delivery or emergency, 85.5% had emergency financial plan and 66% had plan for emergency transport. Taking account into these factors, 62% of the pregnant women in this study can be regarded as having birth plan. Preparation for birth and complications was significantly higher among women with higher educational level (OR = 2.3, 95% CI = 1.24-4.24) and working women (OR = 1.94, 95% CI = 1.01,3.73). Moreover, higher knowledge on care of pregnancy was also a strong predictor for birth preparedness and complication readiness. Findings from this study highlighted that awareness raising activities on birth plan and complication readiness should be enhanced for all pregnant women.