

Effect of Covid-19 on Delivery & PNC Services in Bemetara District of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract: Covid -19 had presented unparalleled challenges to health systems across world. The infectious disease had put the routine health care services to a halt & almost entire machinery of government health care delivery system jumped into the management of crisis like situation being brought due to covid. Like many routine care services the services related to maternal health care such as delivery & post natal visits were severely affected due to lockdowns & restrictions posed due to the pandemic. Like many routine health care services the services related to maternal health care services were severely affected during the pandemic. The outreach services conducted post delivery which assesses the maternal conditions for post delivery complications were also affected. Very limited studies have been conducted to assess the impact of covid -19 on services such as delivery care & post natal services during pandemic. The present paper tries to identify the factors which affected the delivery of services related to delivery care & post natal services in the district. The study was conducted in Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh.

Keywords: Covid-19, PNC, Crisis, Maternal health, Lockdown.

INTRODUCTION

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and the resulting COVID- 19, is a substantial international public health issue. The cases showed a sharp rise in second wave with severe complications. The sudden rise of cases across various nations resulted in many nations announcing lockdowns & travel restrictions.

The rapid rise of cases in the nation had challenged the health system & also the economy of the nation. Chhattisgarh was also among many states which had got affected by the spread of Covid -19. The cases of covid were noticed in both the waves however the spread was aggravated & took a havoc shape during the second wave. It aggravated across all districts during the second wave with number of positive cases rising. Due to sudden out spurt of cases across all districts the government had to put all efforts to mitigate the after effects such as mortality & morbidity due to covid which resulted in lesser efforts towards sustaining routine health care services.

COVID-19 demonstrated the world's vulnerability to infectious disease outbreaks and highlighted the importance of preparedness. It had already devastated the communities, threatening economies, and diminishing quality of life for the people of the State. It was required to study the impact that the disease had put in the overall health systems so that the state can prepare itself from dealing with such situations in future. Among most of the services the maternal health services were also affected during the covid and through this paper will help to understand the effect of covid -19 on maternal health care services such as delivery & post natal care.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The study was conducted in the Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh. The method of data collection involved qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. During the study primary data was collected through in-depth interview of selected respondents. The questions comprised of maternal health seeking behavior in terms of PNC & delivery services adopted by the respondents. The questions were also framed to understand the underlying causes which affected the respondents decisions related to delivery & seeking PNC care. Primary data was collected from the 750 respondents. Respondents were selected from the period 1/04/2020 to 30/11/2020 who had completed the cycle of ANC, delivery and PNC. The questions which were asked to respondents were of semi structured nature & were open ended in nature. The information was collected from each selected beneficiary in the form of one-to-one field level survey with the defined questionnaire. Approach of Systemic random sampling was adopted for the selection of respondents for the study.

RESULT & DISCUSSION:

The data collected from respondents was analyzed to understand whether covid -19 had any effect on services related to delivery & post-natal services. The data was collected on many parameters such as availability of facilities, providers, accessibility, place

of delivery, availability of outreach services for PNC examinations, IEC conducted among the respondents on danger signs during post-natal period.

The first parameter which was studied was on place of delivery chosen by the respondents.

Table 1: PLACE OF DELIVERY

Home Delivery	26.2
Government/Trust	65.3
Private /affiliated hospitals	8.5

The data showed that 65.3 % of women opted for delivery in government/trust-based institutions. There were 26.2% of respondents who opted for home delivery where as 8.5% had done the delivery conducted at private/affiliated hospitals.

The respondents who had opted for home delivery were questioned for the reason for adoption of home deliveries.

Table 2: REASONS FOR HOME DELIVERY

Fear of covid	37.4
Cost of delivery	2.1
Insistence for home delivery by elders	60.5

Of the total respondents 60.5% responded that they had opted for home delivery upon the insistence of their elders. There were 37.4% of cases who opted for home

delivery out of the fear from covid. 2.1% had to opt for home delivery due to financial matters.

Table 3: FACTORS AFFECTING PLACE OF DELIVERY

Quality of services	62.1
Availability of emergency services	21.4
Cost Effectiveness	2.1
Eligible provider/Employee	2.4
Lesser Distance from home	12

The factors which affected the choice of place of delivery were also studied.

The quality-of-service availability was one of the major parameters to opt for the chosen place of delivery. 62.1% respondents said quality of services was main parameter in selection of place for delivery. 21.4% respondents stressed upon the availability of emergency services as second important criteria for selection of place of delivery. There were 12% of respondents for whom the distance from the home was the main criteria for selection of site for delivery.

The parameters which were studied on PNC services were regarding availability of PNC services, IEC conducted to identify danger signs during PNC period & factors which affected availing PNC services.

The parameter on availability of PNC services during covid was studied. The respondents were divided upon when after the delivery they got their first PNC checkups.

Table 4: STATUS OF PNC SERVICES IN COVID

Within 2 days	5.5
2-7 days	16.6
7-14 days	41.3
14 days later	22
After a month	14.6

The availability of PNC services were affected during covid. 41.3% of respondents got their first PNC checkup between 7-14 days of delivery. There were 16.6% of respondents who got PNC checkups after 2-7 days of delivery & 14.6% got their first PNC checkup after a month of delivery. 22% of respondents got their first PNC checkup after 14 days of delivery. There were

only 5.5% of respondents who got their first PNC checkup within 2 days of delivery.

The nature of difficulty in seeking PNC services was studied. This was done to identify what were the possible reasons due to which the uptake of PNC services got affected.

Table 5: NATURE OF DIFFICULTY IN SEEKING PNC SERVICES

Fear of going out of house	56.2
Transportation/Accessibility issue	14.5
Provider unavailable	6.2
Awareness about service availability	23.1

56.2% of respondents couldn't avail PNC services due to the fear of contracting covid-19. There were 23.1% of cases who were not aware of places where the services were available. 14.5% of cases had issues with

relation to transportation & accessibility & for 6.2% of cases providers were unavailable.

The factor on awareness regarding danger signs during PNC period was also studied among the respondents.

Table 6: KNOWLEDGE REGARDING DANGER SIGNS DURING PNC

Complete knowledge of danger Signs	23.2
Partial knowledge	45.8
Lack of awareness	31

The awareness generation activities through outreach services regarding PNC was studied. Around 23.2% of respondents informed that they have awareness regarding danger signs. There were 45.8% of respondents who had partial knowledge regarding danger signs during PNC period & 31% of cases lacked awareness about danger signs during PNC period.

DISCUSSION:

The utilization of PNC services & the institutional delivery was affected during covid-19. The study found that after the onset of covid -19 institutional delivery was affected as their were 26.2% of deliveries being done at homes. The availability of services at government & trust hospitals were maintained which resulted in 65.2% of deliveries being done at government hospitals & trust. The decision of home delivery was primarily being taken on peer pressure which was a result of fear for contracting covid-19. The place of delivery was affected by many parameters but most important consideration by respondents was on quality of services being provided. It had been noticed that the timing of PNC was severely affected due to covid which actually delayed the first PNC checkup among the respondents. 41% of cases had got their first ANC between 7-14 days after delivery. Majorly the reason for delay in seeking timely PNC services were due to covid-19. The outreach services were also affected during covid as 45.8% of respondents had partial knowledge of danger signs during PNC period. The areas of concern which came out from the study should be considered for planning of activities for future such epidemics & pandemics. Moreover there is a need for ensuring that regular activities should not get hampered due to emergencies.

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