

Thesis Title Antenatal Care Behavior and Maternal and Infant
 Health
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ABSTRACT

There are four purposes in this research: 1) to study postpartum women's demographic and socio-economic characteristics, antenatal care behavior, maternal health and infant health; 2) to investigate the relationship between the demographic and socio-economic characteristics (woman's age, woman's educational level, woman's occupation, husband's educational level, husband's occupation, ordinal number of gravida, ordinal number of para, family income and migration during pregnancy) and antenatal care behavior (age of pregnancy at the first antenatal care and number of antenatal care); 3) to investigate the relationship between the antenatal care behavior and maternal health (complication at labour and types of delivery); and 4) to investigate the relationship between the antenatal care behavior and infant health (apgar score and infant birth weight)

A sample of 500 postpartum women, whose age of pregnancy was 38-42 weeks, gave single fetus birth during January 1-31, 1993 and

recovered at postpartum unit in Siriraj Hospital. The sample was divided into 2 groups: study group and comparative group. Whereas the latter group comprised of 280 postpartum women whose number of antenatal care were 4 times or more, the former group comprised of 220 postpartum women whose number of antenatal care were 1-3 times or none. The data was collected from patient records and using questionnaires which was constructed by the investigator according to the objectives of the research. Frequency distribution, percentage and mean were used to describe the sample while Chi-Square Test was employed to study the relationship between demographic, socio-economic characteristics and antenatal care behavior; between antenatal care behavior and maternal health; and between antenatal care behavior and infant health.

The result showed that their mean age is 24 years old and a third of them is 20-24 years old. Three fourth of women and six tenth of husbands finished primary level. For occupation, 38% of women do housework and 33% of husbands are skilled or semi-skilled employees. About a half of the samples had the first gravida. The average family income is 6,419 baht. For migration during pregnancy, 12% migrated to Bangkok and vicinities. Considering antenatal care behavior, it is revealed that the mean age of pregnancy at the first antenatal care is 20 weeks; and more than half of the samples is 13-26 weeks pregnant at the first antenatal care. Moreover, the average antenatal care is 5 times. Regarding maternal health, it results that 89% did not obtain any complication at labour and 81% gave spontaneous labour. For infant health, 91%

possessed normal apgar score, ranging from 8 to 10 marks and the average infant birth weight was 3,041 grams.

When studying factors related to age of pregnancy at the first antenatal care with statistical significance at 0.05, it shows that women with secondary level or higher were 13 weeks pregnant at the first antenatal care more than those with primary level or lower. Women whose husband finished secondary level or higher also had 13 weeks of pregnancy at the first antenatal care more than those who had higher ordinal number of para. Women with higher family income had 13 weeks of pregnancy at the first antenatal care more than those with lower family income. Women who did not migrated during pregnancy attended the first antenatal care at period of lower than 13 weeks pregnant more than those who migrated.

Concerning factors associated with numbers of antenatal care with statistical significance at 0.05, women whose ordinal number of para was lower had 4 times or more of antenatal care more than women whose ordinal number of para was higher. Pregnant women who did not migrate have 4 times or more of antenatal care more than those who migrated.

For the factor related to maternal health with statistical significance at 0.05, it is found that women with more times of antenatal care had less complication at labour than those with fewer times of antenatal care. It is showed that there was no significance relationship between types of delivery and antenatal care behavior.

Lastly, it results that factors associated with infant health with statistical significance at 0.05 are age of pregnancy at the first antenatal care and numbers of antenatal care. Women with younger age of pregnancy at the first antenatal care delivered infants weighted 3,000 grams up more than those with elder age of pregnancy at the first antenatal care. Women whose number of antenatal care was higher delivered infants weighted 3,000 grams up more than women whose number of antenatal cares was lower. It is found that there was no significance relationship between apgar score and antenatal care behavior.