

# Review of Literature

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## DETERMINANTS OF ANTENATAL CARE SERVICES UTILIZATION IN MEGHALAYA, INDIA



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### ABSTRACT:

**Background and Aim:** This paper aims to study the determinants of utilization of antenatal care services among Garos and Hajongs in the state of Meghalaya.

**Methods and findings:** Primary data was collected from 400 households (200 household from Garo villages and 200 households from Hajong villages). A background information schedule prepared and used to get the personal and background information of the respondents along with structured questionnaire. To identify the association between socioeconomic characteristics of women and utilization of antenatal care services, bivariate and multivariate analyses were performed. Results shows that that women's education, husband's education, religion, and age at time of marriage are the

significant determinants in the utilization of antenatal care services checkup during first trimester during her pregnancy.

**Conclusion:** Considering the results, study recommends that effective interventions are needed to deal with such significant policy level interventions to address the issue of unmet need of education for girls among the Garos and Hajongs in the state of Meghalaya.

**KEYWORDS:** Antenatal Care, Garos, Hajongs and Meghalaya.

## INTRODUCTION AND REVIEWS OF LITERATURE

Maternal healthcare remains a major challenge to the global public health system, especially in developing countries [01]. Several studies have documented that poor availability of services is a one of the factor in non-use of skilled attendants during childbirth [02], but even in areas where these services are available certain groups of women, belonging poorest economic strata, illiterate, and rural backgrounds, cannot use properly these services [03, 04]. One of the leading priorities across the world is to ensure that every child has the best possible start to life, a safe birth, sound new born baby care with good nutrition, universal immunization etc. In many developing countries, delivery at home take place in unhygienic circumstances, putting mothers and their newborns at risk for a variety of life-threatening infection. However, maternal and neo-natal deaths have been minimized by the improving the maternal and child health care facilities. Low use of maternal healthcare services is one of the reasons why maternal mortality is still considerably high in India and Institutional delivery is an important factor associated with reduced maternal mortality rate. Institutional delivery service utilization is one of the key and proven interventions to reduce maternal death. The present study looks into determinants of utilization of antenatal care services.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

**The objective of the study is as follows:**

1. To study the determinants of utilization of antenatal care services among Garos and Hajongs in the State of Meghalaya

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Meghalaya is one of the seven states in Northeastern part of India. The West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya comprises of the plain and hilly regions. The district is inhabited by many tribal and non-tribal communities. Apart from the Garos, there are the Hajongs, the Koch, the Boros, and the Rabhas which are recognized as the Scheduled Tribes under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The present study focuses on the Garos and the Hajongs. Primary data is collected from 20 villages, comprising 10 villages inhabited dominantly by Garos and another 10 villages inhabited dominantly by Hajongs selected randomly from the West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya. Further 20 households from each village selected randomly. Hence sample size of the study is mothers from 400 households (200 household from Garo villages and 200 households from Hajong villages.) A background information schedule prepared and used to get the personal and background information of the respondents along with structured questionnaire. To identify the association between socioeconomic characteristics of women and utilizations of antenatal care services and to study the determinants, bivariate and multivariate analyses were used.

## RESULTS

## Determinants of ANC checkup during first trimester

Table 1 demonstrates the results of the multivariate analyses of the utilization of institutional delivery by women. The results show that women's education, husband's education, religion, and age at time of marriage are the significant determinants in the ANC checkup during first trimester of the pregnancy.

<b>Table: 1 Estimated effects and significance levels of selected Socioeconomic characteristics of women on ANC checkup during first trimester</b>		
<b>Socioeconomic characteristics</b>	<b>ANC checkup during first trimester</b>	
	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>95 % CI</b>
<b>Current age of women</b>		
Less than 25 (ref)	1.000	
25-29	1.895	0.598- 6.004
30 and above	7.108***	2.238- 22.569
<b>Age at time of Marriage</b>		
Up to 18 years (ref)	1.000	
19 -24	0.427*	0.165- 1.100
25 and above	0.656	0.150- 2.867
<b>Age at time of first child birth</b>		
Up to 18 years (ref)	1.000	
19 -24	1.407	0.368- 5.376
25 and above	0.871	0.147- 5.149
<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu(ref)	1.000	
Non-Hindu	1.118	0.560- 2.231
<b>Education of women</b>		
Illiterate (ref)	1.000	
Primary Completed	1.358	0.554- 3.328
Middle Completed	1.941*	0.862- 4.373
Secondary completed	2.838	0.757- 10.641
Graduate and above	2.756	0.845- 11.854
<b>Education of husband</b>		
Illiterate (ref)	1.000	
Primary Completed	1.279	0.482- 3.393
Middle Completed	0.842	0.357- 1.988
Secondary completed	1.086	0.354- 3.332
Graduate and above	1.356	0.345- 5.336
<b>Occupation of women</b>		
Farming (ref)	1.000	
Business	1.174	0.445- 3.101
Govt. service	1.047	0.176- 6.221
Others	0.549	0.180- 1.674
<b>Occupation of husband</b>		
Farming (ref)	1.000	
Business	0.399	0.153- 1.042
Govt. service	0.439*	0.131- 1.466
Others	0.847	0.345- 2.078
<b>Type of family</b>		
Joint (ref)	1.000	
Nuclear	1.209	0.565- 2.587

Levels of significance: \*p<0.10; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

Table 2 demonstrates the results of the multivariate analyses of the utilization of institutional delivery by women. The results show that women's education, husband's education, religion, and age at time of marriage are the significant determinants in the regularly ANC checkup during pregnancy.

<b>Table: 2 Estimated effects and significance levels of selected Socioeconomic characteristics of women on ANC checkup during first trimester</b>		
<b>Socioeconomic characteristics</b>	<b>Regularly ANC checkup during pregnancy</b>	
	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>95 % CI</b>
<b>Current age of women</b>		
Less than 25 (ref)		
25-29	0.363	0.150- 0.873
30 and above	0.215	0.086- 0.542
<b>Age at time of Marriage</b>		
Up to 18 years (ref)		
19 -24	2.177	0.946- 5.012
25 and above	2.447	0.696- 8.600
<b>Age at time of first child birth</b>		
Up to 18 years (ref)		
19 -24	1.717	0.583- 5.055
25 and above	2.026	0.480- 8.541
<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu (ref)		
Non-Hindu	0.589	0.321- 1.082
<b>Education of women</b>		
Illiterate (ref)		
Primary Completed	0.870	0.418- 1.811
Middle Completed	0.953	0.478- 1.900
Secondary completed	6.224	1.086- 35.682
Graduate and above	1.435	1.096-37.754
<b>Education of husband</b>		
Illiterate (ref)		
Primary Completed	1.976	0.824- 4.743
Middle Completed	1.172	0.587- 2.339
Secondary completed	2.205	0.766- 6.347
Graduate and above	0.479	0.147- 1.559
<b>Occupation of women</b>		
Farming (ref)		
Business	1.420	0.574- 3.512
Govt. service	2.975	0.310- 28.544
Others	0.886	0.386- 2.031
<b>Occupation of husband</b>		
Farming (ref)		
Business	1.174	0.546- 2.522
Govt. service	1.513	0.507- 4.520
Others	0.704	0.332- 1.490
<b>Type of family</b>		
Joint (ref)		
Nuclear	0.765	0.399- 1.466

Levels of significance: \*p<0.10; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

As expected the education of women is associated with the utilization of antenatal care services. These results are consistent with several studies conducted in India and other countries. The education of the mother is argued to be an effective means of achieving greater autonomy in the family, getting employment, thereby achieving economic independence. The education also provides her opportunities to learn about pregnancy and childbirth through exposure to mass media [5-6]. Therefore, this study recommends that effective interventions are needed to address such important policy level interventions to address the unmet need of education for girls among the Garos and Hajongs in the state of Meghalaya.

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