

ABSTRACT ON  
MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CARE PRACTICES  
IN SELECTED VILLAGES OF BOLANGIR DISTRICT,ORISSA

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### INTRODUCTION

Maternity and child health care, the most crucial and vulnerable area is now being given increased attention in the health policy and planning of the Govt. but inspite of the various efforts made at policy and programme implementation level, the condition is not very satisfactory. Large number of parents in our country are not aware of the child care and this condition is found to be in it's worst form in tribal dominated areas of India. Maternal health care associated with antenatal, natal and postnatal care is the essential responsibility of any community.

#### **Objective of the study**

The broad objective of the study is to study the maternal & child health care status of the selected areas and socio-cultural factors affecting maternal and child health care system.

#### **Methodology**

The study is concentrated on two tribal dominated villages of Khaprakhol block of Bolangir district. A sample of 120 respondents was taken from the study area. Data was collected through a structured interview schedule with informal interview. Some case studies along with participant observation was made to make the finding more authentic.

#### **Findings**

It was surprisingly found that 78.32% of childbirth was accompanied by home delivery, where 26.66% were handled by family members and relatives, 41.66% by village Dhais, and only 10% by ANM. 66.33% of women were not taking monthly medical check up in their pregnancy period. 75.83% of women were of the wrong notion that due to intake of iron and folic acid like vitamins and tablet the weigh of the baby inside the foetus will increase and they will face problem during delivery. The nutritional status of the most of the pregnant women was found to be very low and there were lots of superstitious restriction and prescription about different diet intake during pregnancy. It was also believed among most of the women in that areas that the first 2-3 days of breast milk is indigestible to the newly born baby, so they should not feed them mother milk during that period. So child and maternal care practices is largely neglected in that areas.