

Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Tamil Nadu

Krisnamurthy.A. and Muniappan.P.

Every time, a woman in the developing world becomes pregnant, her risk of dying is 200 times higher than that of a woman in the developed world. It is estimated in 2000 that 5,29,000 women die due maternal causes in the world. Among this Africa and Asia suffer 95% of maternal deaths in the world. India has a very high maternal mortality ratio. In India around 1,00,000 woman die every year during delivery and pregnancy related causes. India accounts for 20% of all maternal deaths world wide. The present paper in an attempt to analyse the morbidity and mortality pattern and cause of death of mothers.

No State in India, except Tamil Nadu is able to calculate MMR reliably. In Tamil Nadu, the district level MMR has been calculated every year from 1994. Around 1100 maternal deaths occur every year which is approximately 10% of maternal deaths occur in India and 0.2% of maternal deaths in the world. This gives an estimate MMR of 100 in Tamil Nadu while the SRS estimate is 134 (2001-03) During the year 2007-08, 1059 maternal deaths has reported which gives an estimate of 95 per one lakh live births. The district level MMR varies from 226 in Nilgiris district (hill area) to 32 in Chennai (100% urban areas) district. About 22% of deaths occur in ante natal Period, 6% in natal period and the remaining 72% on post natal period. The maternal deaths from SC/ST community constitute 38% all deaths where as the share of SC / ST population in total population is 20%. Among the 11% of maternal deaths occur in home deliveries, the share of SC / ST community is 50%. The major causes of maternal morbidity are pregnancy induced hypertension, anaemia, hemorrhages and diabetic induced pregnancy. Cause of maternal deaths shown that 20% of mothers die due to PPH followed by PIH with severe anaemia. Maternal morbidity is another major cause for concern. A larger number of women suffer acute complications that can lead to life-long pain, illness and infertility.

Krishnamurthy. A is retired Statistical officer, Muniappan.P is retired Demographer of the Directorate of Family welfare Chennai -6.