

# **Autonomy of women and Ante Natal Care**

## *A Comparative study of Two Indian states*

Deepshikha Tarai

JNU, New Delhi

deepshikha.tarai@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

Women autonomy in India is a much debated issue because the concept of autonomy is multidimensional. Alternative terms such as women's status, women's position in a society and in a household, control over resources and female prestige are all frequently used in the literature interchangeably to define Women's Decision Making power (Bloom et al 2001). This paper is an attempt to explore the relationship between women's autonomy and ante natal care among married women in age group 15-49 years of two states: Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. The study was mainly based on the data from National Family Health Survey-3. The broad objective of this study is to show the impact of women's autonomy on availing ANC services in both the states. A women Autonomy index is constructed taking three different areas: women's decision-making power in making large household and daily purchases, allow going to the market, health center and outside village and access to money. On the other hand 1) Two or more tetanus toxoid injections during pregnancy 2) Received Iron Folic Acid (IFA) syrup or tablets for three months during pregnancy and 3) Antenatal visits for pregnancy variables are used to compute the ANC. Simple cross tabulation and binary logistic regression techniques were used. Results indicate that in Andhra Pradesh women has greater autonomy in making decision regarding their own health care, freedom of movement and access to money in compare to Orissa. The place of residence, age of the women, education as well as husband education play important role to improve autonomy of women. In both the states as women's autonomy increases, the percentage of at least receiving any kind of drugs it may be IFA Tablets, may be tetanus injection etc also increases. The link between women's autonomy and exposed to mass media shows the positive impact on received ANC in Orissa. The study finding also point out that husband education also plays a significant role to determining ANC in both the states.