

REGIONAL VARIATION IN UTILIZATION OF POST-PARTUM CARE SERVICES IN UGANDA

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ABSTRACT

This is a comparative study of the factors affecting women in utilization of postpartum care services among the four regions in Uganda that is central, eastern, northern and western. The objective of the study was to compare the factors affecting women in utilization of postpartum care services among regions in order to establish whether the factors affecting women in utilization of PPC services operate uniformly among regions and also to find out which factors are significant in the particular region.

The study involved three levels of analysis that is univariate, bivariate and multivariate. The analysis was carried out in order to establish the proportion of women from each region basing on their background characteristics like education, age, marital status, parity, religion, residence and enabling factors such as listenership to the radio and viewership of the television.

The study found out that age, occupation was significant in all the four regions, religion and resident were found significant in eastern and northern regions respectively while parity was found significant in central and western region at bivariate level.

Multivariate analysis was carried out and the logistic regression model was fitted. The study revealed that women in urban areas in northern Uganda utilized PPC services more than rural. Protestants women had a higher chance of using PPC services in eastern region; northern region women with primary education had 66% chance of utilizing PPC services. In the western region the women with secondary education had 39% chance of utilizing PPC services and those with higher education had only 35% chance of utilizing PPC services. Listenership to radio was found significant in central and northern region. Viewership of television was found significant in the northern region and women who viewed television in the north were less likely to utilize PPC services than those who did not view the television at all. Therefore, the factors affecting utilization of PPC services among the four regions in Uganda do not operate uniformly thus in some regions, some factors affect women utilization of PPC services while in other regions they do not.

The researcher concluded in the study that mothers in higher parity are less likely to utilize PPC services than women in lower parity in central and western region; marital status does affect women in utilization of PPC services in all the regions. And mothers with higher educational levels are less likely to utilize PPC services than the uneducated mothers in northern and western region which a contradiction to other findings. While the young mothers of 18-30 years in the central region are more likely to utilize PPC services than those in eastern, northern and western region.

The study recommended improvement in awareness among the masses about the advantages of utilization of PPC, enhancement of development with the rural bias most especially the northern region of Uganda. Partnership development between the government and other development agencies in decentralizing information flow in order to increase on media coverage across a bigger geographical coverage