

Factors influencing health services utilization and PMTCT uptake among pregnant women in selected health facilities, Same District

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Abstract

Introduction: Maternal-to-child transmission of HIV infection responsible for about 20 percent of all HIV transmissions of which 95 percent occurs in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Without appropriate interventions, nearly 50 percent of HIV positive mothers will transmit HIV to their children during pregnancy, labour and breastfeeding. In Tanzania there is wide gap between provision and utilization of the PMTCT services.

Objective: To determine factors influencing PMTCT intervention uptake among pregnant women for prevention and control of mother to child transmission of HIV.

Materials and methods: This was a cross sectional descriptive study which employed both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods among pregnant women attending PMTCT services and consenting participants. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect the data in selected health facilities of Same district Kilimanjaro region. Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses were performed using SPSS statistical software determining relationship of different variable determining uptake of PMTCT.

Results: The study involved 330 respondents 319 (11 gestation age. Frequency of attendance ranged from four to more than four visits. Occupation was more significant higher likelihood to influence uptake of PMTCT services. Age was not associated with PMTCT services utilization.

Conclusion: Occupation and education are the main contributing factors affecting timely uptake of PMTCT services. More comprehensive public health intervention measures should be implemented focused on improving public understanding on the importance of PMTCT services utilization to reduce HIV infection among pregnant women. Nevertheless, reducing transport difficulties, long waiting time, distance to health facility and improving the economy of public with enhanced educational level of pregnant women may contribute to a further reduction of HIV transmission and promote PMTCT utilization.