

DETERMINANTS OF SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANCE SERVICES UTILISATION AMONG CHILDBEARING WOMEN IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: ANALYSIS OF THE 2018 NIGERIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY

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Abstract

Proper care during pregnancy and delivery which is a major indicator in measuring the level of healthcare is important for the health outcome of both the mother and child. Despite the progress made by governments in expanding the range of healthcare services, the utilisation of skilled birth attendance (SBA) services has remained low in Nigeria, especially in the northern regions. This study examined the determinants of SBA services utilisation among childbearing women in northern Nigeria. The analyses for this study covered a weighted sample of 14,635 childbearing women who reported a live birth using the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey. Descriptive and analytical analyses were carried out, including frequency tables, bivariate and multivariate using the binary logistic regression model. The study showed a low prevalence of SBA services utilisation (29.2%) during delivery among childbearing women. Also, women found in the areas of high neighbourhood poverty ($aOR: 0.50$; $CI: 0.42-0.59$); households with large family size ($aOR: 0.85$; $CI: 0.73-1.00$); and residing in rural areas ($aOR: 0.48$; $CI: 0.42-0.57$) were negatively associated with SBA services utilisation, while women who reported that distance to health facility was not a big problem had higher odds of being assisted by a skilled birth attendant during delivery ($aOR: 1.30$; $CI: 1.10-1.54$) than those in the reference category. In addition, the protective factors of educational attainment, adequate number of ANC visits and delivery in a health facility for utilising SBA services were documented. There is the need for intensified programmes and policies on universal access to maternal healthcare services geared towards reducing the poverty levels, especially among the disadvantaged women, as well as reducing maternal and child mortality.

Keywords: Skilled birth attendance; childbearing women, social disorganisation, Northern Nigeria