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Josephine Nabaweesi

Uganda Christian University, Uganda

Pregnant Women's Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Towards the Attendance of Antenatal Care Services at Mukono General Hospital

Background:

Antenatal care is referred to as the totality of care given to pregnant women from conception to delivery, from a certified health care setting. A number of 8 contacts is recommended throughout pregnancy according to WHO, 2016. Antenatal services are free in Uganda courtesy of the government of Uganda, though attendance is still very low, which has continued to cause maternal and infant mortality and morbidity from preventable causes. Early booking has an advantage for proper pregnancy information sharing and pregnancy monitoring.

Objective:

The purpose of this study was to determine pregnant women's knowledge, attitudes and practices towards attendance of antenatal care at Mukono General Hospital.

Method:

A sample of 60 pregnant women was used, and a descriptive quantitative design was employed. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire consisting of questions about socio-demographic factors, knowledge, attitude and practice and this was affected using structured interview method.

Results:

Pregnant women had good practice at 90.2%, positive attitude of 94.6% and slightly less knowledge of 66.7%. Only 12% were knowledgeable about the number of antenatal care visits recommended, 45% had knowledge about when to initiate first antenatal care visit and 79% had a positive attitude towards early booking.

Conclusion:

We recommend that pregnant women are given all the necessary information regarding antenatal care with special emphasis on the recommended number of visits, when to initiate their first visit and encourage early booking in order to achieve the 8 contacts WHO policy for antenatal care, since when we increase knowledge, we increase antenatal care utilization according to Anderson's behavioral model.

Keywords: ANC- Antenatal care, WHO-World Health Organization

Biography:

Josephine Nabaweesi, is a graduate of Bachelors of Sciences in Nursing (BSN) at Uganda Christian University. She is so passionate about research more so on matters to do with Maternal and Child health because it is through research that problems are identified hence getting faster solutions to these challenges faced. She believes that nurses more so in her home country do not give the area of research so much effort yet it is from this that a lot can be achieved in this profession. Therefore, her first step in this program will encourage many younger nurses take interest in research since it is the foundation on which solutions to many health challenges is built.