

A Study of AnteNatal and PostNatal Services provided by the Female Health Workers in Three Districts of Karnataka

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Abstract : The main focus of this study was to highlight the preference of women for home deliveries although a large number of health facilities were available. A study was conducted in three districts of Karnataka State. The respondents for the study were women who had delivered at least one child during the last three years. The study found that, in spite of the exposure of primary health care services, the deliveries conducted in the health institutions or deliveries assisted by the trained personnel were very less. Time of delivery, illiteracy, economic conditions of women, customs of natal home, transportation and place of stay of health workers had contributed to this phenomenon. Lack of health personnel and inadequate facilities had also contributed to this. If women had access to good antenatal services, adequate rest and nutrition during pregnancy and proper counseling, this problem could have been minimised. Therefore, one has to promote institutional deliveries to reduce peri-natal and neo-natal mortality rates. Also, there is need to strengthen the Dai training programme as the traditional Dai would be easily accessible for conducting the delivery in the rural areas.