

## Awareness of Primigravida Women Regarding the Danger Signs of Intraconceptional Period

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### Abstract

Each year considerable number of women worldwide die from complications of childbirth and most of these are preventable. Therefore a descriptive exploratory research study was carried out to identify the awareness regarding danger signs of intraconceptional period among the primigravida women attending antenatal clinic in the western regional hospital. A total of 212 primigravida women were selected by using census method. Semi structured interview schedule were used for data collection. The obtained data were coded and entered in SPSS version 16 programs and analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study findings revealed 58% of respondents had inadequate level of awareness and remaining had adequate level of awareness with the mean score  $14.19 \pm 2.26$ . The level of awareness was statistically significant with educational level ( $p=.011$ ) and occupations ( $p=.017$ ).

The study concluded that the respondents' awareness of danger signs during intraconceptional period was poor. It is essential to create awareness regarding danger signs of intraconceptional period and their preventive measures.

**Key words:** Awareness, Danger signs, Primigravida women

### Introduction

Pregnancy and childbirth are usually the exciting times in the life of a family. They are joyful events for most families as they anticipate bringing new family member. Although at times some of the common discomforts may make the pregnant woman feel ill, pregnancy is a normal physiologic process. Problems of pregnancy range from mildly irritating to life-threatening conditions (Fraser & Cooper, 2003).

A study conducted among 118 Tanzanian pregnant women revealed that the percentage of women who knew at least one danger sign of pregnancy was 26%, of delivery 23% and of postnatal period 40% (Pembe et al, 2009).

Evaluation study of the birth preparedness and complication readiness among 394 antenatal mothers attending antenatal care clinic in Kenya reported that 87.3% of respondents were aware of their expected date of delivery. More than two-thirds (67.0%) of respondents knew at least one danger sign. The study concluded that the respondent knowledge of danger signs during pregnancy was low and education and counseling on different aspects of birth preparedness is highly needed for the respondents (Mutiso, Qureshi & kunuthia, 2008). Another study in the rural health center of the district of Blantyre, Malawi found that the participants had limited knowledge of complications that may need immediate treatment, (Kumbani & Inerney, 2002). No study was found

conducted in Nepal in relation to danger signs of intraconceptional period. Therefore, the present was carried out to identify the awareness regarding danger signs of intraconceptional period among the primigravida women attending antenatal clinic in a regional hospital in Nepal.

### Methodology

A descriptive exploratory research design was used. The population of the study consisted of the primigravida women attending antenatal clinic in the western regional hospital (WRH), Pokhara. A total of 212 primigravida women were selected by using purposive sampling. Permission to conduct study was obtained from the authority of WRH through a written request letter. Verbal informed consent was obtained from the subjects prior to data collection. Data were collected by the investigator in 1 month time during December 2014 to January 2015.

The collected data were organized, coded and entered in SPSS 16 version and analyzed by using descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The chi square test was used to find the associations between related variables and level of awareness during intraconceptional period.

### Findings

Of the total 212 respondents, majority (79.2%) belonged to young mothers of less than 25 years. Most (89.6%) of the respondents were literate. However, only 18.9% of the respondents were engaged in service or business and rest were engaged in house work or agriculture (not shown in the table). Table 1 presents the awareness of the respondents regarding the danger signs of intraconceptional period. Table 2 presents level of awareness of the respondents regarding the danger signs of intraconceptional period. Table 4 presents the association of selected background characteristics of the respondents with their level of awareness.

**TABLE 1**  
**Awareness Regarding Danger Signs of**  
**Intraconceptional Period n=212**

Awareness items	Number	Percent
<b>Danger signs of pregnancy</b>		
Severe vaginal bleeding	85	41.0
Severe headache	97	45.8
Severe weakness	98	46.2
Backache	98	46.2
Leaking of fluid from birth canal	23	10.5
Abnormal swelling of face and feet	40	18.4
Severe nausea and vomiting	51	41.1
High fever	24	11.3
Absent or decreased fetal movement	28	13.2
<b>Danger sign of labour*</b>		
Severe vaginal bleeding	136	64.2
Severe headache	52	24.5
Abnormal swelling face fever	34	16.0
Malpresentation	93	43.9
High fever	17	8.0
Excessive fetal movement	44	21.2
Severe weakness	42	19.8
Prolonged labour	53	25.6
Meconium passed	51	24.1
Inadequate contraction of uterus	74	34.4
<b>Danger sign of postnatal period*</b>		
Severe vaginal bleeding	202	94.8
High fever	19	9.0
Severe lower abdomen pain	77	36.3
Mastitis	44	20.8
Retained placenta	88	41.5

\*Multiple Responses

Table 1 reveals that among 212 respondents, 46.2 percent were aware that severe weakness and backache are the danger signs of pregnancy followed by severe headache (45.8). Similarly, regarding the danger signs that may occur during labor, majority (64.2%) of respondent answered severe vaginal bleeding is the danger sign during labour, only 43.9% answered malpresentation followed by inadequate uterine contraction (34.4%). Similarly, 94.8% of the respondents answered severe vaginal bleeding and 41.5% stated retained placenta as the danger sign during postnatal period.

**TABLE 2**  
**Awareness Level about Danger Signs of Intraconceptional Period**

n=212		
Awareness primigravida women	Number	Percent
Adequate (<Mean)	123	58.0
Inadequate (≥mean)	89	42.0

Mean SD =14.19 ± 2.26

Table 2 shows that 58.0% of respondents had poor level of awareness and 42.0 percent possessed good knowledge. The mean score of knowledge was 14.19 with the standard deviation 2.26.

**TABLE 3**  
**Association between Demographic Characteristics and Level of Awareness of Danger Signs of Intraconceptional Period**

Variables	Knowledge level		X <sup>2</sup> Value	P Value
	Poor	Good		
<b>Age group</b>				
<19	49	44	4.43	.218
20-24	44	31		
25-29	9	7		
30-34	21	7		
<b>Educational level</b>				
Could not read and write	8	14	13.13	.011*

Could read and write	55	30		
Primary education	8	15		
School level education	39	21		
College level education	5	13		
<b>Occupation</b>				
House wife	56	48	10.0	17*
Agriculture	44		24	
Service	12		16	
Business	11		1	

\*P < 0.5 statically significant values

Table 3 Presents that the level of awareness of the respondents was not statistically significant with the years of experience (P=0.218). There was significant associations between level of awareness with educational level (P=.011) and occupations (P=.017) respectively but not significant with years of experience.

## Discussion

Findings of this study reveal that of the total 212 respondents, majority (79.2%) belonged to young maternal age of less than 25 years. Most (89.6%) of the respondents were literate. However, only 18.9% of the respondents were engaged in service or business and rest Majority (81.1%) of them were engaged in house work or agriculture.

Regarding the awareness of the danger signs of intraconceptional period in this study, only 46.2% of the respondents were aware that weakness and headache as the danger sign during pregnancy, 64.2% answered severe vaginal bleeding as the danger sign during labour and 94.8% answered severe vaginal bleeding followed by retained placenta (41.5%) as the danger sign during post natal period. The finding of this study is supported by finding of study done by Pembe et al (2009) which reported that, the percentage of women who knew at least one danger sign during pregnancy was 26.0%, during delivery 23.0% and after delivery 40.0%.

In terms of level of awareness, majority (58%) of respondents in this study had inadequate level of awareness, and 42% had adequate level awareness with the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation was  $14.19 \pm 2.26$ . This finding is supported by the finding of study done by Pembe et al (2009) which reported that the majority of the women had low awareness of danger signs of obstetrical complications. Similar finding is reported by the study done by Mutiso, Qureshi, kunuthia J. (2008) which also found that the majority of the women had low awareness of danger signs of obstetrical complications.

This stud found a significant association of education level and occupational status with awareness regarding danger sign signs of intraconceptional period. This study also found no significant association between age group and awareness regarding danger signs of intraconceptional period.

### Conclusion

The study concludes that the primigravida women possessed inadequate awareness about danger signs

during intraconceptional period. It is also concluded that educational level and occupational status tends to influence the level of awareness about danger signs during intraconceptional period.

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