



# A Study On The Impact Of Male Involvement In Antenatal Care Services On Pregnant Women's Health: A Case Study Of Khongoni Health Center

WILLIAM MKANDAWIRE

DR. S.A. SHARMILA BANU. M.SC., M.PHIL., PH.D.

Date of Submission: 22-03-2023

Date of Acceptance: 05-04-2023

## ABSTRACT

This study was done to assess the impact of male involvement in antenatal care services on pregnant women's health: A case study of Khongoni health center of William Mkandawire Registration number: 21251278035 in partial fulfillment for the award of the MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK, DMI – ST EUGENE UNIVERSITY under my guidance. This Thesis work is original one and not submitted earlier for the award of any degree / diploma elsewhere. The aim of the study was to enhance active participation of males in the antenatal care services in regards to improved health and general wellbeing of pregnant women. It also aims at evaluating the project management effectiveness and project success as determined by a sample comprised of members of the project implementation team, the community members and the beneficiaries which were pregnant mothers seeking antenatal services at Khongoni health center. A summary of the research results and recommendations was presented.

## I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Men engagement in ANC services can be described as a social and behavioral change which is needed for men to act more responsible roles in maternal health care in order to ensure women's and children's wellbeing. According to WHO initiative for making pregnancy safer, in this research, the researcher is trying to find out the impacts that men engagement in Antenatal Care services has in regards to good health of pregnant women. The chapter outlines the context of the study by focusing on both global and local health involving men in maternal healthcare; the national profile of Malawi in general and in relation to maternal healthcare agendas; and social issues related to pregnancy and childbirth. According to various observational

studies on men engagement in Antenatal Care, suggest that including men on issues to do with reproductive health initiatives can help in achieving good health results. In addition, men do help their pregnant wives to have a good health by ensuring women get good ANC services during their visits. They provide transportation there by reducing obstetric emergency.

## Significance of the study

This study will be conducted on academic grounds in order to acquire a Master's Degree in the related field (MSW-PIME) but it will also help to add on the available literature on the same topic and could therefore be used by policy makers to bring in innovations to areas that need improvements regarding men engagement in ANC health services at a national level.

## Problem Statement

There are numerous health related problems associated with pregnant women who seek antenatal health services without their spouses like maternal complications, maternal death, stillbirth, and neonatal deaths. This document is trying to explore the impact of men engagement in ANC health services on good health of pregnant women. Antenatal care visits are an ideal time to advise mothers and families on essential pregnancy care to reduce stillbirths and neonatal deaths, and get birth preparedness plan. Therefore, new measures or ideas should be considered in order to help solve out or address gaps which are existing in regards to men engagement in ANC care, thereby reducing and mitigating health problems that are associated with pregnant women who seek antenatal health services without their spouses.



### **Objective of the study**

To assess the effect of engaging men in ANC services on the good health of pregnant women.

### **Main Objective**

To assess the effect of engaging men in ANC services on the good health of women who are pregnant living around Khongoni health center.

### **Specific Objectives**

1. To find out inputs/attributes from men which promote general health of pregnant mothers.
2. To examine roles that men play to pregnant mothers.
3. To find out challenges that men face at the health facility when attending antenatal services together with their spouses.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter of the study, the researcher seeks to look at other literatures which other authors have written on the same subject matter and contextualize them with Khongoni status quo. According to a Demographic Household Survey done by Judith Nekes, Mangeni Ann Mwangi, Samwel Mbugua and Vincent Mukthar et al. (2013) a Kenyan study and various studies have shown that men's role can contribute to better outcomes for their pregnant wives because of the financial muscles as well as decision making powers that they possess. They use this advantage to make sure that their wives get antenatal services or make arrangements for skilled care deliveries. Bhalerao et al. (1984); Mullany et al. (2007) as cited in DHS2013 for men to make the right decision for their wives regarding place of delivery and professional attention, they need to know the advantage of maternal health care. There is a general agreement that husbands who are aware of danger signs of pregnancy are likely to act fast to save lives of their wives. In Kenya, such education and counselling is provided to antenatal mothers and their spouses if together. This shows that direct male involvement, particularly attendance at antenatal care, is an important indicator of utilization of skilled birth attendant during delivery.

There is a need for the government, NGOs and other stakeholders to focus on creating awareness through mass-media health education campaigns targeting men, emphasizing mainly men's role in ensuring and facilitating their wives' use of maternal health services. The findings according to Judith N. 2013, Such policies should address men's role and constraints and also include an educational component to sensitize men to the benefits of their involvement in ANC and outcomes and men should not take maternal and reproductive

health as a women thing. In Kenya, it will be important if men are integrated into maternal health services like ANC visits (Judith N. Mangeni A Mwangi. Samwel M. and Vincent M. et al. 2013) 2.2

## **III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research design and method**

This is a descriptive research done to enhance my knowledge and is a qualitative one with non-quantitative type of analysis and is more subjective and will use questionnaire as a method for data collection. The aim is to explore how people think in more detailed.

### **Area of study**

This study shall target mainly twenty-five (25) participants mainly, pregnant women with spouses, health workers, pregnant women without spouses, women who are now breastfeeding and men who attend antenatal health services at Khongoni health center which is in Lilongwe district.

### **Target population**

This research is targeting pregnant women, men who escorts their wives for ANC services, health professionals and other health support or lay cadres involved in antenatal health serve delivery.

### **Sampling techniques and size**

There are many sampling techniques like; probability sampling which is based on the fact that every member of a given sample population has a known and equal opportunity of being selected. But for sake of this research, the researcher will use probability sampling (simple random sampling) where respondents will be picked randomly amongst the designated study area; this will give a chance to every targeted member of the population to be picked to take part in the study.

### **Data collection tools**

Much as there are a number of data collection tools, this research shall use closed ended questionnaires when collecting data. It is assumed that most respondents are illiterate who could not read and write. The questions will be read out to them and the respondents will be allowed to tick the best answer from the given list of answers and for some questions, room has been given to allow the respondents explain more information without being blocked so that more information could be generated.

### **Data analysis**

The collected data will be analyzed using micro soft excel because of small number of respondents which could not require a sophisticated



software like Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Excel empowers you to understand your data through natural language queries that allow you to ask questions about your data without having to write complicated formulas. In addition, it provides high level-visual summaries, trends and patterns.

#### **Ethical issues**

The researcher will assure all the respondents that the research will be solely for the purpose of the study and that their refusal to take part would not affect them in any way. They will also be informed that they are at liberty to decline answering some questions. Furthermore, the respondents will be informed that all information given will be confidential, only be used for the purpose of the research and that their names will not, in any way, be appearing in the report of the research. Participation will be entirely voluntary.

#### **Limitation to the study**

There will be some limitations in the study; firstly, the choice of participating in the research or not is at owner's will; the researcher will overcome this by giving proper explanations to the proposed respondents about the intentions of the research in

order for them to understand and take part in the process. Secondly, the researcher anticipates meeting some financial challenges as this task shall be done at a distant place and shall take some days to be completed. The researcher shall use a sample, which is a sub set of the whole population so as to acquire the needed goal of the study, using fewer resources. Finally, the researcher appreciates the impact of biasness when conducting the study; this will be minimized by conducting the study in an objective manner.

In this regard the researcher will first of all conduct a pre-test questionnaire to establish whether the questions contained in the questionnaire are really meeting the research objectives.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS/FINDINGS**

##### **Response Rate**

The study targeted 25 respondents from Khongoni health center. All the targeted informants responded representing 100% response rate. According to Babbie (2002) any rate of 50% and above is good enough for analysis. Therefore, in this case the 100% response rate is satisfactory.

#### **Presentation of Personal Data of Respondents**

##### **Gender**

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>MEN</b>	7	28 %
<b>WOMEN</b>	15	60%
<b>HEALTH WORKERS</b>	3	12 %

##### **Age of the Respondents**

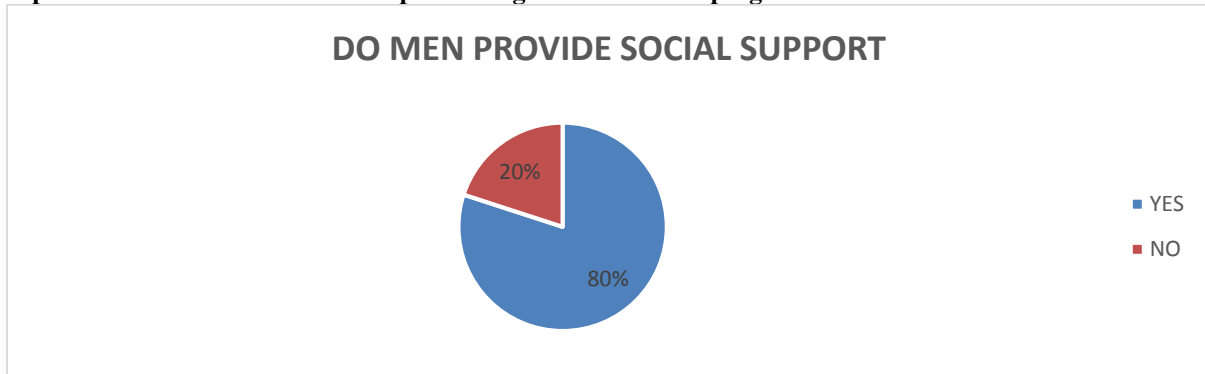
<b>AGE CATEGORY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
18 – 20	2	8 %
21 – 24	8	32%
25 – 40	15	60%
Above 40	0	0 %

##### **Academic Qualification of participants**

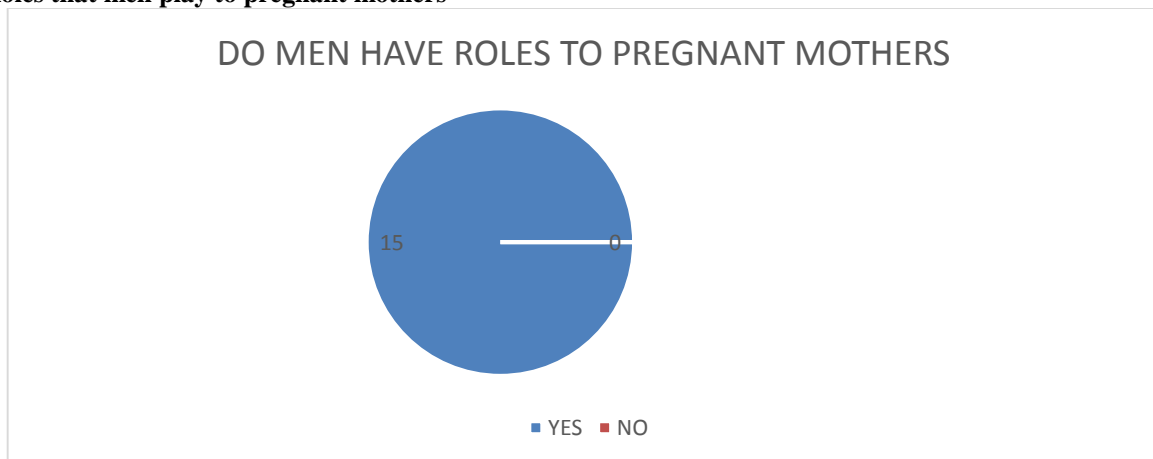
<b>ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA</b>	1	4 %
<b>PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE</b>	2	8 %
<b>MSCE</b>	2	8 %
<b>JCE</b>	1	4 %
<b>PSLCE</b>	6	24 %
<b>NONE</b>	13	52%



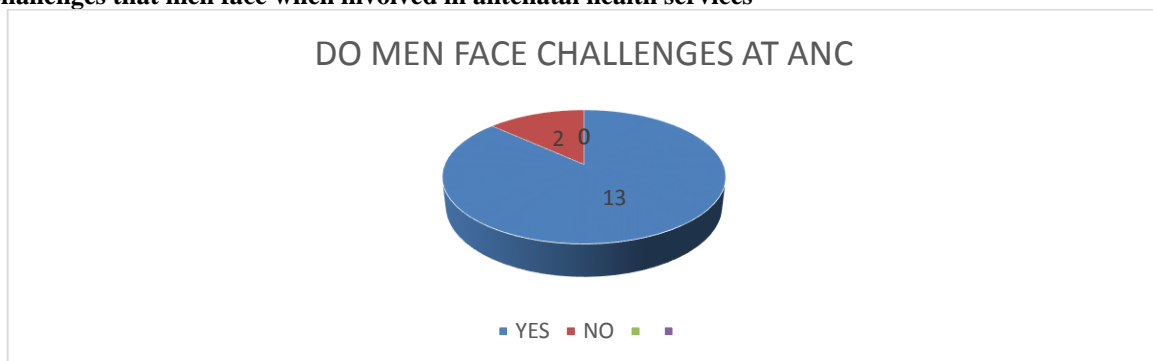
### Inputs/attributes from men which promotes general health of pregnant mothers



### Roles that men play to pregnant mothers



### Challenges that men face when involved in antenatal health services



### Summary

This chapter presents the responses of the participants. Tables have been used to present findings. The researcher has ensured that all questions are presented in this chapter. This chapter will help the researcher to discuss the findings in the subsequent chapter.

### V. CONCLUSION

The research in this chapter has revealed that men provide various social support to pregnant women which promotes their general wellbeing in turn. It has also revealed that men have positively welcomed the idea of being engaged in ANC services. It has further disclosed that all men assume responsibility of any kind in time of pregnancy ranging from social, psychological and material. Therefore, it can be summarized that men



engagement in ANC services is indeed vital on the general health of pregnant mothers and on the general health of the whole family.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher recommends that men engagement in ANC services is very vital to the general health of pregnant mothers as well as unborn babies and that it should continue but there should be an improvement on how men are welcomed, handled and perceived in antenatal clinics. Make the ANC a very welcoming place for everyone (men and women) and make it more attractive to men in order to attract many to come again next time.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I am grateful to the **Almighty God** for the strength, health and ability to successfully complete the phase -1 of this project. I would like to thank the DM-St. Eugene University Zambia, for providing opportunity to do the project work as part of our curriculum. We also thank our university founder **Rev. Fr. Dr. J.E. ARUL RAJ.OMI** Founder of MMI & DMI.I stand indebted in gratitude to our beloved Founder/Chancellor **Rev. Fr. Dr. J.E.ARUL RAJ.OMI** for all the facilities provided at our institution DMI St. Eugene University, Chibombo, Zambia. Many thanks to my supervisors **DR. S.A. SHARMILA BANU** for her tireless assistance and valuable reviews on my project as I would not have finished this first part of the project without her supervision and everyone for the support.

## REFERENCES

- [1]. Vehvilainen-Julkunene K, Emelonye AU. Spousal participation in Labour and Delivery in Nigeria. *Ann Med Health Sci Res.* 2014;4(4):511–5.
- [2]. Kwambali TK, Dellicour S, Desai M, Ameh CA, Person B, Achieng F, et al. Perspective of men on antenatal and delivery care: a qualitative study. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2013; 13:134.
- [3]. Mullick S. Involving men in maternity care: health science delivery issues. *Agenda Special Focus.* 2005:124–135.
- [4]. Iliyasu Z, Abubakar IS, Galadanci HS, Aliyu MH. Birth preparedness, complication readiness and father's participation in maternity care in a Northern Nigeria community. *Afr J Reprod Health.* 2010;4(1):21–32.
- [6]. Corbertt CA, Callister LC. Nursing support during labour. *Clin Nursing Research.* 2000;9(1):70–83.
- [7]. Padilla YC, Reichman NE. Low birth weight: do unwed fathers help? *Child Youth Serv Rev.* 2001;23(4–5):427–452.
- [8]. Alio AP, Kornosky JL, Mbah AK, Marty PJ, Salihu HM. The impact of paternal involvement on feto-infant morbidity among whites, blacks and Hispanics. *Matern Child Health J.* 2010;14(5):735–741.