

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Compassionate and Respectful Maternity Care and Associated Factors among Women Attending Delivery Services at Public Health Facilities of Hawassa City, Southern Ethiopia

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Abstract

Background: Providing compassionate and respectful maternity care service to laboring mothers is one of the most important interventions to ensure the survival of women. However, compassionate and respectful maternity care has received less attention both in practice and research.

Objective: To assess the compassionate and respectful maternity care and associated factors among women attending delivery services at the Public health Facilities of Hawassa City, Southern Ethiopia.

Methods: Institution based cross-sectional study design was conducted to collect data from study participants in Hawassa City from April to May 2019. Study subjects were selected through systematic random sampling based on their proportional distribution of sample size to each institution. A structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The data was coded and entered into Epi data version 3.1 and the analysis was carried out in SPSS versions 22. Bivariable and Multivariable binary logistic regression analysis with 95% CI was carried out.

Result: The prevalence of disrespect and abuse during childbirth was 63.5% (95% CI: 60.2-67.2). Disrespect and abuse were more common in women who had no formal education (AOR = 1.64; 95% CI: 1.07, 2.53) and Primary (1-8) education (AOR = 2.63; 95% CI: 1.69, 4.08) as compared with Secondary and above. Women who had less than 4 ANC visit for current pregnancy, (AOR = 1.75; 95% CI: 1.26, 2.43), Spontaneous vaginal delivery (SVD), (AOR = 2.347; 95% CI: 1.482, 3.716) and women who face complication during labor and delivery (AOR = 1.598; 95% CI: 1.036, 2.465) was associated with disrespect and abuse during childbirth.

Conclusions: The prevalence of disrespect and abuse during childbirth was high in this study area. A key implication of the finding of this is that efforts have to be taken to increase facility-based delivery by addressing determinant factors of disrespect and abuse to ensure utilization of quality institutional delivery care.

Keywords

Disrespect, Abuse, Delivery, CRMC, Hawassa, Southern Ethiopia

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A&D: Abuse and Dis-Respective; ANC: Antenatal Care; BEmONC: Basic Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Care; CI: Confidence Interval; CI: Confidence Interval; CRMC: Compassionate Respectful Maternity Care; EDHS: Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey; FMOH: Federal Minster of Health; HSTP: Health Sector Transformation Program; HURCSH: Hawassa University Referral Comprehensive Specialized Hospital; MDGs: Millennium Development Goals; MMR: Maternal Mortality Rate; PHCU: Primary Health Care Unit; SNNPR: Southern Nation Nationality People's Region; SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Science; SSA: Sub-Sahara Africa; TRA: Translating Research to Action; WHO: World Health Organization

Background

In 2015 more than 303,000 women died of easily preventable obstetric complications in the globe, of which 99% were from less developed countries. Sub-Saharan Africa alone accountable for 66% of the deaths



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[1]. Ethiopia is an African countries with one of the highest maternal mortality rates (MMR) of 412 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births [2].

Universal use of skilled birth attendants is the most effective means of reducing maternal mortality is healthcare facilities because the majority of pregnancyrelated complications cannot be predicted and require urgent and immediate attention [3,4]. A universal human right declares that every childbearing woman in every health system around the world should practice respect and compassionate care as part of their basic human rights, including respect for women's autonomy, dignity, feelings, and choices [5], because, respectful health care is the determining factor to increase client satisfaction and health-seeking behavior of the community [6].

World Health Organization (WHO) defines compassionate and respectful maternal care (CRMC) as the right every woman has to attain the highest standard of health which similarly includes the right to dignity compassionate and respectful health care to all childbearing women around the world throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period [7,8].

Disrespectful and abuse during facility childbirth include physical abuse, lack of consent for care, nonconfidential care, undignified care, abandonment, discrimination, and detention in facilities for failure to pay user fees [9]. A study conducted on disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth in Ethiopia showed that 67.1% of women experience disrespect and abuse, and the most common abuses were physical abuse, non-consented care, and non-confidential care [10]. Another, studies conducted in different areas also showed that a significant number of women experience non-confidential care [11-13].

Several studies identified different factors associated with non-compassionated and disrespectful cares such as socio-demographic factors [12-18]; obstetric related factors [11,19,20]; social factors; normalization of disrespect and abuse, lack of engagement and oversight, financial barriers, lack of autonomy and empowerment [12,13]; institutional factors; lack of standardized infrastructure and lack of responsibility mechanisms, lack of resource and staff shortage [11,21-23] and providers related factors [9,19,22-24].

In Ethiopia, though the federal ministry of health gives special attention to address gaps in the provision of compassionate and respectful health care in the health system [8,25], still there is a breach in the implementation of CRMC. Besides, there were also limited researches conducted to identify different factors associated with non-compassionated and disrespectful maternity care in Ethiopia.

Hence, the aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of compassionated and respectful maternity

care and its associated factors among women attending delivery services at public health facility of Hawassa City, Southern Ethiopia.

Methods and Materials

Study setting

Hawassa is the capital city of Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region and has 8 Sub City and is 273 km far from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The city contains one comprehensive specialized hospital, one general hospital, one primary hospital and eleven health centers. The total population of the city is estimated to be 376,539 from which 191,281 are females and 5149 women gave birth to live children in the last six months.

Study design and participants

Intuitional based cross-sectional study was carried out among women who gave birth in public health facility of Hawassa City from April to May, 2019. The sample size was calculated using single population proportion formula, n = $(Z\alpha/2)^2 \times P(1-P)/d^2$, considering the following assumptions: 95% confidence interval, prevalence of respectful maternity care experienced 57% [14]; margin of error 5%, design effect of 2; and 10% for non-response and a total of 806 women were included in the study.

Two stage sampling technique was used to select the study participants. First, five health centers were selected from 11 health centers using simple random sampling technique and all hospitals were selected because of level difference. Then the woman who gave birth at the selected health facility were selected using systematic random sampling technique. The sampling interval was calculated based on the number of women who gave birth in these facilities in six months of previous year. Finally, the study participants were selected from each health facility using " k" value interval (K/n) 1716/830 \approx 2.

Study variables

The main outcome variable was compassionate and respectful maternity care and it was measured based on seven components of CRMC. Each CRMC components were summarized by adding constituent questions coded by yes (1) and no (0). Then components were recoded to yes (1) when fully achieved or no (0) when any of questions was responded "no". Finally, CRMC was computed by adding individual components and scores of more zero were considered yes (1) that indicate presence of abuse and disrespectful care and value summarized to zero (0) indicates no abuse and disrespectful care.

The explanatory variables includes; socio demographic factors (age, marital status, religion, education, socio economic back ground), Obstetric

related factors (parity, gravity, place of delivery, length of stay in the health facility), health system related factors (lack of standardized infrastructure, lack of responsibility mechanisms, lack of resource and staff shortage), and individual related factor (normalization of disrespect and abuse).

Data collection procedures

Data were collected using interviewer administered questionnaire by nurses who were not working at the selected health facilities and supervised by mater holder public health professionals. Seven nurses and two supervisors were involved in data collection process. Training was given for both data collectors and supervisors on how to collect the data. The content and consistency of the data was checked by the investigators on daily base.

Data processing and analysis

All the collected data were entered using epi data version 3.1 and analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) for windows version 20. Descriptive statistics with frequencies and percentages for categorical data, as well as means and standard deviation for numerical data, were used to summarize the data. Bi-variable and multivariable binary logistic regression was used to identify factors associated with CRMC. A p-value of < 0.2 was used as a cut of point in bi-variable analysis to select the candidate variables for

multivariable analysis. Adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with 95% CI was used to determine association.

Ethical clearance

The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Pharma College of Health Science Hawassa campus. A formal letter of cooperation was delivered to the study area (Health Department, Hawassa city administration). Participants were clearly informed of the general purpose, possible risks, and benefits of the study and verbal consent was obtained from each participants before the data collection. The issue of confidentiality and privacy of participants" was secured by coding the data in terms of anonymity.

Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

A total of 806 women who gave birth in public health facility of Hawassa City participated in the study with a response rate of 97.11%. Nearly half, (44.0%), of the participants were from HURCSH; 324 (40.2%) were in the age range of 25-34 years with mean (\pm SD) age of 30.1 (\pm 7.44) years; 90.0% were married; while, only 88 (10.9%) were college and above education. About 163 (20.2%) were government employee with average monthly income of 1630 ETB (\$48) (Table 1).

Obstetric and personal related factors

As provided in Table 2, more than one third (37.1%)

Table 1: Socio-demographic characters of women who gave birth in public health facility of Hawassa City, Southern Ethiopia, 2019.

Variables	Category	Frequency	(%)
Age of mother in years	15-24	223	(27.7)
	25-34	324	(40.2)
	35 and above	259	(32.1)
Marital status	Single	32	(4.0)
	Married	725	(90.0)
	Divorced	34	(4.2)
	Widowed	15	(1.9)
Mothers level of education	No formal education	136	(16.9)
	Read and write	118	(14.6)
	Primary (1-8)	338	(41.9)
	Secondary (9-12)	126	(15.6)
	College and above	88	(10.9)
Mothers occupation	House wife	323	(40.1)
	Private employee	163	(20.2)
	Government employee	88	(10.9)
	Merchant	172	(21.3)
	Student	50	(6.2)
	Others	10	(1.2)
Family monthly income (ETB)	< 1000 ETB	201	(24.9)
	1000-2575 ETB	471	(58.4)
	> 2575 ETB	134	(16.6)

Table 2: Obstetric related factors of women who gave birth in public health facility of Hawassa City, Southern Ethiopia, 2019.

Variables	Category	Frequency (%)
ANC for this child	Yes	583 (72.3)
	No	223 (27.7)
Whom did you seen	Physician	142 (24.4)
	Nurse	38 (6.5)
	Midwifery	324 (55.6)
	HEWs	71 (12.2)
	Health officers	8 (1.4)
Place of current ANC	Home	86 (14.8)
	Health center	486 (83.4)
	hospital	11 (1.9)
No of ANC visit for current pregnancy	< 4	512 (63.5)
	≥ 4	294 (36.5)
Parity	Nullipara	100 (12.4)
	One	94 (11.7)
	Two to four	313 (38.8)
	≥ Five	299 (37.1)
Type of last delivery	Normal delivery	561 (69.6)
	Caesarian section	114 (14.1)
	Vacuum/forceps	131 (16.3)
Sex of attendant on delivery	Male	264 (32.8)
	Female	434 (53.8)
	Both	108 (13.4)
Type of last delivery	Normal delivery	561 (69.6)
	Caesarean delivery	113 (14.0)
	Instrumental delivery	18 (2.2)
	Delivery by episiotomy	114 (14.1)
Facing complication during labour and delivery	No	651 (80.8)
	Yes	155 (19.2)

gave birth five or more children, of which 69.6% had SVD; 53.8% were attended by female attendant on delivery. Nearly three quarter (72.3%) of study participants had attended ANC for the index pregnancy and the majority (87.8%) of them had less than four ANC follow up.

Prevalence of compassionate and respectful maternity care

The overall prevalence of disrespect and abuse during child birth in this study was 63.5% (95% CI: 60.2-67.2). As indicated in Figure 1, the most common type of disrespect and abuse mentioned by study participants were; non-confidential care (50.5%); non-consented care (46.5%), physical abuse (34.5%) and denial of care (33.0%).

Factors associated with disrespect and abuse during health facility child birth

In the bi-variable binary logistic regression analysis, age of mother in years, mothers' level of education, family monthly income (ETB), number of ANC visit for last pregnancy, parity, mode of current delivery, long stay at the health facility and facing complication during labour and delivery had a P-value < 0.25 and they were consider as candidate for multivariable binary logistic regression analysis.

After controlling for confounders in the multivariable analysis; the respondents' level of education, number of ANC visit for current pregnancy, mode of current delivery, and complications faced during labour and delivery had significant association with disrespect and abuse. Mothers who had no formal education were 1.65 times (AOR = 1.645; 95% CI: 1.070, 2.531) and primary (1-8) education were 2.6 times, (AOR = 2.626; 95% CI: 1.691, 4.079) more likely to experience disrespect and abuse than those educated secondary and above level.

Similarly, women who attended ANC for less than 4 visits for current pregnancy had 1.75 times more likely to be disrespected and abused (AOR = 1.753; 95% CI: 1.263, 2.431) when compared with mothers who had greater than 4 number of ANC visit for their current pregnancy. Those respondents who gave birth by SVD were 2.3 times more likely to be disrespected and abused (AOR



Figure 1: The prevalence of components of CRMC among women who gave birth in public health facility of Hawassa City, 2019.

Table 3: Bivariable and multivariable logistic regression analysis for disrespect and abuse among women who gave birth in public health facility of Hawassa City, 2019.

	Disrespect and Abuse		COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)	P-Value		
	Yes	No					
	No. (%)	No. (%)					
Age of mother in years							
15-24	155 (69.5)	68 (30.5)	1.51 (1.03, 2.2)	2.04 (0.94, 4.41)	0.07		
25-34	201 (62.0)	123 (38.0)	1.08 (0.77, 1.51)	1.56 (0.85, 2.83)	0.15		
35 and above	156 (60.2)	103 (39.8)	1	1			
Mothers level of education							
No formal education	158 (62.5)	95 (37.5)	1.52 (1.05, 2.19)	1.64 (1.07, 2.53)	0.02*		
Primary (1-8)	239 (71.8)	94 (28.2)	2.32 (1.63, 3.32)	2.63 (1.69, 4.08)	< 0.01*		
Secondary and above	115 (52.3)	105 (47.7)	1	1			
Family monthly income (ETB)					!		
< 1000 ETB	140 (69.7)	61 (30.3)	1.7 (1.08, 2.68)	1.47 (0.86, 2.5)	0.16		
1000-2575 ETB	295 (62.6)	176 (37.4)	1.24 (0.84, 1.83)	1.19 (0.75, 1.88)	0.46		
> 2575 ETB	77 (57.5)	57 (42.5)	1	1			
No of ANC visit for current pregnancy							
< 4	353 (68.9)	159 (31.1)	1.88 (1.40, 2.54)	1.75 (1.26, 2.43)	0.01*		
≥ 4	159 (54.1)	135 (45.9)	1	1			
Parity					'		
Nullipara	66 (66.0)	34 (34.0)	1.23 (0.76, 1.98)	1.12 (0.58, 2.17)	0.74		
One	68 (72.3)	26 (27.7)	1.66 (1.00, 2.76)	1.00 (0.47, 2.16)	1.00		
Two to four	195 (62.3)	118 (37.7)	1.05 (0.76, 1.45)	2.121 (0.91, 4.96)	0.08		
≥ Five	183 (61.2)	116 (38.8)	1	1			
Mode of current delivery							
Normal delivery	385 (68.6)	176 (31.4)	2.36 (1.60, 3.47)	2.35 (1.48, 3.72)	< 0.01*		
Caesarian section	64 (56.1)	50 (43.9)	1.38 (0.83, 2.29)	1.40 (0.80, 2.46)	0.24		
Vacuum/forceps	63 (48.1)	68 (51.9)	1	1			
Long stay at the health facility							

Yes	359 (66.7)	179 (33.3)	1.51 (1.12, 2.04)	1.1 (0.71, 1.7)	0.67
No	153 (57.1)	115 (42.9)	1	1	
Facing complication during labour and delivery					
Yes	113 (72.9)	42 (27.1)	1.7 (1.15, 2.50)	1.6 (1.04, 2.46)	0.03*
No	399 (61.3)	252 (38.7)	1	1	

NB; *P-value < 0.05 was statistically significant on multivariable, 1 = Reference.

= 2.347; 95% CI: 1.482, 3.716) as compared with those managed by instrumental delivery. Participants who faced complication during labour and delivery were 1.6 times more likely to be disrespected and abused (AOR = 1.60; 95% CI: 1.04, 2.46) than those who did no experience of any complication during labour and delivery (Table 3).

Discussion

This study examined the compassionate and respectful maternity care and associated factors among women attending delivery at different health institutions. Overall, nearly two third of respondents reported as they faced at least one form of disrespect and abuse during childbirth. Factors identified to have association with disrespect and abuse during health facility child birth were, educational status of the woman, number of ANC visit for current pregnancy, mode of current delivery, and complications faced during labour and delivery.

In this study, the overall prevalence of disrespect and abuse during health facility child birth was 63.5% (95% CI: 60.2-67.2). This finding is in line with study conducted in Bahir Dar town, Ethiopia 67.1% [26]. This finding was lower than the findings of studies in Addis Ababa and Western Oromia [14,21], however, it was very high in relation to the finding of the study conducted to assess the quality of care for prevention and management of common maternal and newborn complications in hospitals of Ethiopia [27]; Therefore studies direct to prevent disrespect and abusive maternity to increase skilled birth attendance that could humper the maternal and neonatal mortality [28].

Inversely, 36.5% were managed by culturally appropriate way as per the standard of compassionated and respected care which was insignificant in comparison to the finding (90.8%) of Addis Ababa study [14]. This is very dependent on knowledge and skill of health care providers about compassionate care [29] and the presence or absence of companion in delivery room [30-32]. This strongly encourage interventions that save the lives of both mother and her child and also promote ensuring continuity of care during birth to achieve universal health coverage [24,33,34]. Our study identified that 13.3% were separated from baby without medical indication, that is very high in comparison to finding (2.3%) of study in Addis Ababa [14]. This is one of women unfriendly care [5,35] in which women express they were not satisfied on the care obtained to

them and it does not promote immediate breast feeding initiation [31,36].

However, WHO promotes non denial of access to life-saving essential obstetric care when complications occur during pregnancy or childbirth [37] because all women have the right to timely health care and to the highest attainable level of health [38]. In this 13.3% of study participants were denied from food or fluid in labor unless medically necessitated, it deemed to be lower than the finding of report on countries experience [38]. Perhaps, this could be lack strong standard that enforce health care providers to act to maximum effort in Ethiopia [39].

In this study, 37.3% of women were deprived privacy when they were in second stage of labour which could be lack of curtain or separate room [19,31,39,40]. For instance, the care providers never used drapes to control infection. Non-confidential care is an especially important problem in which the discrimination a woman experiences in a facility and her community and act to deter her use of facility-based childbirth care [5,41].

However, World health organization stated that obtaining consent and ensuring confidentiality are one of the universal ethical standards in quality of health care [37], and these are key concepts to ensure compassionated care [40,42], in our study, the vast majority of study participants were treated with nonconfidential care and not obtained consent before care which very high in comparison to findings of studies conducted elsewhere (only 2-8.5%) of women experienced non-confidential care [11-13]. But the level of consent obtained was consistent to finings of different studies [26,38]; besides, abandonment, one of indication of deficiencies in respectful care for laboring women, was the frequently mentioned type of disrespect and abuse in many studies [19,40]. There is a probable correlation of results in between countries. For instance, our study identified that 40.2% of women were ignored or abandoned the service when they need, which is also in line with the studies of elsewhere [9,38] but it was a little bit higher than the study conducted in Addis Ababa [14].

The result of our study identified that shortage of infrastructure, high client/patient flow, and/ or late referring system, that could determine the compassionated care to women in labor and in turn affect the quality maternity care was similar to findings of studies [11,21-23,34,37,38]; moreover in this study, burn out of care providers, weak health institution management system, poor updating of both skill and knowledge and lack of carrier development among care providers were identified problems as determining factors for disrespected and abusive maternity care among labouring women because these could alter the view/behaviour of care providers including stress [33,37,43-45], and supported by many studies in globe [9,19,22-24,34].

Though the study was observational, it was proposed to be relatively rapid and not a detailed examination of all aspects of compassionate care. Lack of qualitative data, and associated factors were not exhaustibly explored in each interview steps. This limited our capacity to reasonably present the relative importance and alternative solution for resolution of dis-compassionate aspect of care and acculturalization of disrespect maternal care.

Conclusion

Non-compassionated care is one of fundamental barrier of skilled birth attendance. The prevalence of Non-compassionated care during childbirth was found to be high and it was more prevalent in women with no formal education and primary education and low ANC follow up. Woman-centered care in a respectful and non-abusive manner can be promoted by addressing identified factors, creation of awareness, strengthening health management strategies through capacitating institutional structure and updating professional through ongoing in-service and academic trainings are proposed solutions. However, further follow up studies could differentiate the underlining causes.

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