

Research on Removing Three Delays in Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care

BASELINE ASSESSMENT: KEY FINDINGS

A quasi non-randomized study design was used to compare an intervention area with a similar sized, demographically matched control area where no interventions were implemented, to evaluate existing knowledge and practices regarding childbirth. The intervention area is the non-LHW covered Union Council (UC) Khudabad in District Dadu which has a population of 19,913. The non-intervention UC is Kamal Khan, located in Taluka Johi of District Dadu which has a non-LHW covered population of 28,575.

A total of 2150 interviews were conducted; 1150 in each UC, which included both men and women. The average age of women who were surveyed was 29.5 years and that of men was 34.7 years. The education levels of men and women were extremely disparate, with a 34% illiteracy rate among men, and 78% for women.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANTENATAL CARE

For the vast majority of people surveyed, information on pregnancy and child related matters comes from their family elders.

Respondents were given a list of 12 common pregnancy related symptoms and asked which ones they knew of. It was found that awareness of some of the most critical complications, such as bleeding, severe abdominal pain and convulsions was extremely low.

Awareness of Pregnancy Related Complications

	Khudabad		Kamal Khan	
	Husband (n=501)	Wife (n=517)	Husband (n=551)	Wife (n=580)
Bleeding	33%	21%	30%	23%
Severe Abdominal Pain	6%	8%	12%	13%
Convulsions	8%	3%	12%	2%
Severe Headache	21%	31%	51%	43%
High Fever	16%	16%	36%	22%
Severe Weakness	10%	21%	23%	30%
Blurred Vision	4%	20%	8%	31%
Swollen Hands/Face	5%	10%	10%	16%
Difficulty Breathing	6%	10%	7%	23%
Loss of Conscious	2%	4%	2%	2%
Acc/ Reduced Fetal Movement	1%	2%	2%	1%
Water Breaks	0%	0%	0%	0%
None	0%	0%	0%	0%

Knowledge of Complications in Labour and Childbirth

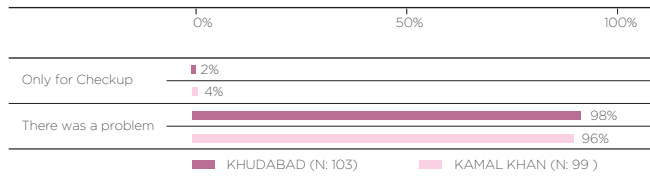
ANTENATAL CARE SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

The WHO recommends at least four antenatal care visits during a pregnancy. However, only 21% women in Khudabad and 24% in Kamal Khan had four or more visits throughout their last pregnancy. The research showed that although women counted any kind of healthcare check-up during pregnancy as an antenatal visit, in 97% instances, visits were to seek care for specific symptoms. Preventative care is thus a low priority for most women. Only 40% women had received post-natal care in a health facility. Of these it was once again found that care was only sought when there was a specific health complaint.

Number of ANC/Healthcare Visits

	Khudabad	Kamal Khan
	Wife (n=503)	Wife (n=555)
None	13%	3%
One	15%	6%
Two	30%	40%
Three	19%	25%
Four or more	21%	24%
Not Applicable	2%	2%

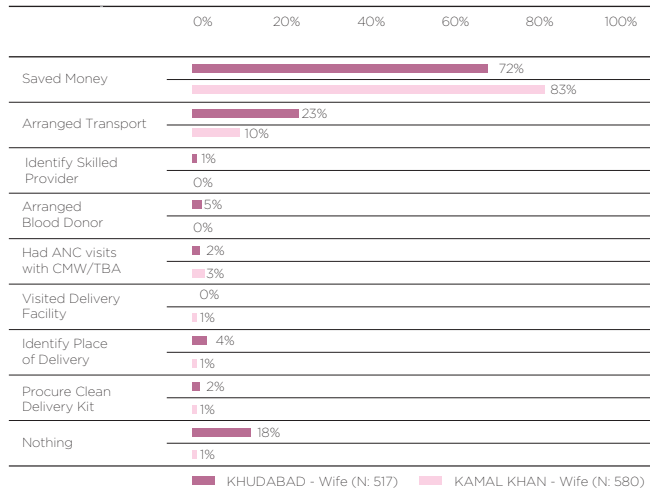
Reason for Visits During Pregnancy



BIRTH PREPAREDNESS

In 90% instances, a couple's primary source of knowledge on birth preparation was their family elders. Some of the things that respondents consider important to prepare for are shown below:

Important Aspects of Birth Preparedness

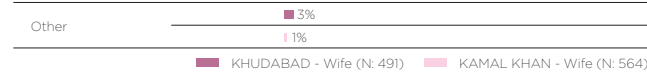
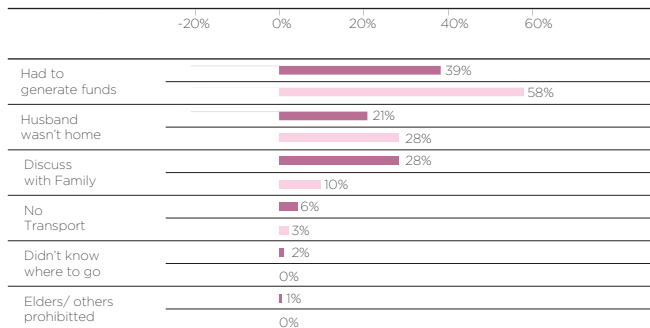


While saving money is a major aspect of birth preparedness for most households, it was found that in an overwhelming majority of instances, these savings fall short, and obtaining funds from other sources, primarily loans, becomes necessary.

TRANSPORT

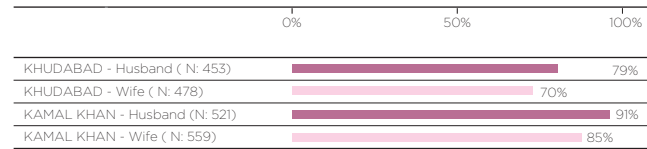
When there was a delay in seeking care, it was mostly due to insufficient funds.

Reasons for Delay in Seeking Treatment



In many households, the safety of a facility delivery is not enough to overcome the inconvenience of going actually going to the facility. Transport to the health facility is expensive and costs around Rs. 1,000 for a taxi or a rickshaw. In both UCs, the facilities are 75-80 minutes away for most people.

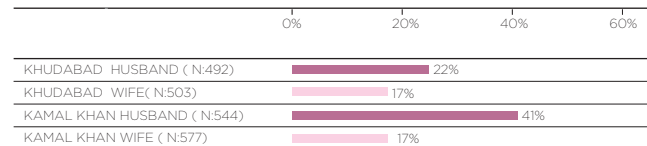
Difficulty in Obtaining Transport for Treatment



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Only 1 in 5 residents in Khudabad, and marginally more from Kamal Khan describe receiving any support from community for EmONC Services. The overall proportion suggests a dire need for establishing community support mechanisms to ensure pregnant women and neonates have timely access to healthcare.

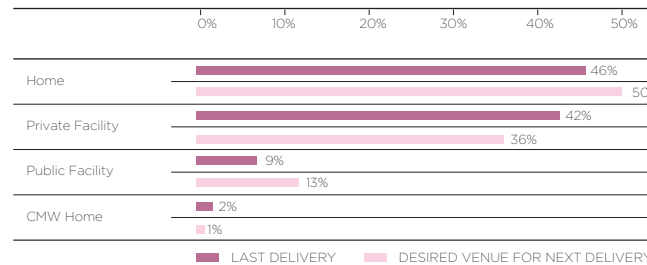
Received Support from Community Support for EmONC Services



DELIVERIES

For respondents in both UCs, the main reason for choosing a particular venue for childbirth was convenience. This is reflected in the number of women who had their last child at home, and the number of women who would like to give birth to their next child at home.

Comparison of Delivery Experience for Women of Khudabad

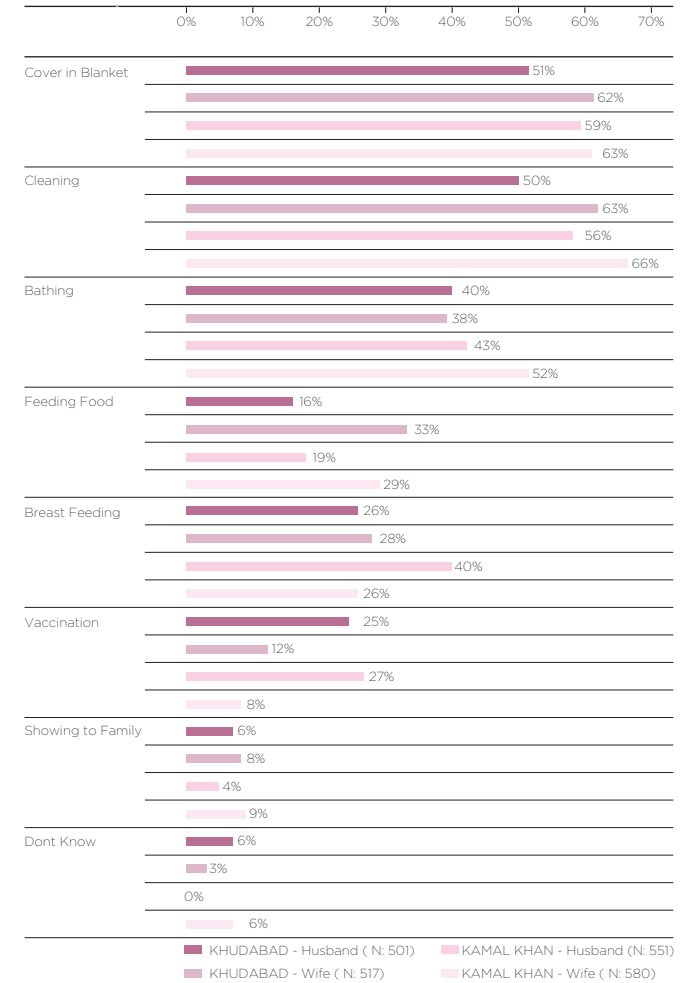


While the research shows a rising trend in favour of facility deliveries, there is still a strong preference for the convenience of a home delivery, with low concerns for potential complications.

NEONATAL CARE

Most mothers believed that the first important thing to do with a newborn is to cover them with a blanket. Only around a third mentioned breastfeeding and even fewer suggested vaccination.

Important Things To Do With a Newborn



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