



AWARENESS OF JANANI SHISHU SURAKSHA KARYAKRAM AND OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES INCURRED FOR INTRA-PARTUM AND POST-PARTUM CARE IN A TERTIARY CARE HEALTH FACILITY – A PILOT STUDY

Medicine

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ABSTRACT

This interview-based pilot study was conducted amongst antenatal and postnatal women to assess the awareness about Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana (JSSK) and to ascertain the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them. Out of 78 respondents, 47.43% were between 20-25 years while 3.84% were less than 20 years old. Illiteracy among respondents and their spouses was 20% and 7%, respectively. 75.64% were homemakers and 6.41% were self-employed. Those holding yellow-coloured and orange-coloured ration cards comprised 25.64% and 46.15%, respectively. 38.46% were aware about JSSK and the hospital personnel were the main source of this information. For coming to the hospital, 15.38% respondents availed of ambulance facility while many travelled at their own expense. 70.51% respondents revealed that they spent money from their own funds on medicines, after admission to hospital. Increase in awareness regarding various entitlements of JSSK can be through community-based education and media campaigns.

KEYWORDS

Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana, JSSK Entitlements, Out-of-pocket expenses

INTRODUCTION

Good health and well-being of mothers are crucial for resolving economic, social and developmental challenges, including increasing equity and reducing poverty.[1] With improvement of health care facilities, infant mortality rate in India has steadily declined from 58 per 1000 live births (2004) to 50 per 1000 live births (2009). [2,3] However, the neonatal mortality rate showed a marginal drop from 37 per 1000 live births (2004) to 34 per 1000 live births (2009). [2,4-6] Neonatal mortality is largely due to preventable modalities, such as, hypothermia, asphyxia, infections and respiratory distress.[2,5,7,8] The institutional deliveries in India increased from 41% (2005-2006) to 81% (2013-2014) as a consequence of implementation of the National Rural Health Mission, [3,9] indicating that women were able to avail of skilled care at the time of delivery, irrespective of their economic status.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana (JSSY), a centrally-sponsored scheme under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), was launched by the Government of India on 1st June 2011. JSSK integrates the cash assistance with antenatal care during pregnancy, provides treatment for the sick new-born, institutional care during delivery and immediate health facility-based post-partum services. The objective of JSSK is to eliminate out-of-pocket expenditure on medications, diet, diagnostics, user charges, and transport to and from health institution (including referral institution) and promote institutional delivery. [10]

The objective of this interview-based pilot study was to determine the awareness about JSSK amongst women admitted in tertiary care hospital for antenatal and postnatal care and to ascertain the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the interviewed women.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional pilot study was conducted at a municipal medical college hospital (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital), located at Kalwa, Thane, about 30 km from Mumbai city, Maharashtra, India. After explaining the purpose of the study to prospective participants, informed consent was taken for participation. Unwilling women were excluded and were not asked the reason for their reluctance. Simple random sampling technique was used to select subjects for interview. Confidentiality was maintained in data collection and compilation. Both willing and unwilling cases were provided routine and standard antenatal care and postnatal care. Socio-demographic details (age, literacy

and occupation of respondent and spouse, income, gestational age, obstetric score, type of family and number of family members) were recorded on a pre-validated interview questionnaire. Awareness of the respondents about JSSK, their source of information and the out-of-pocket expenses (OOPE) incurred were also recorded. The respondent was considered to be "aware" of JSSK if she could tell at least two salient features of the scheme during the interview.

RESULTS

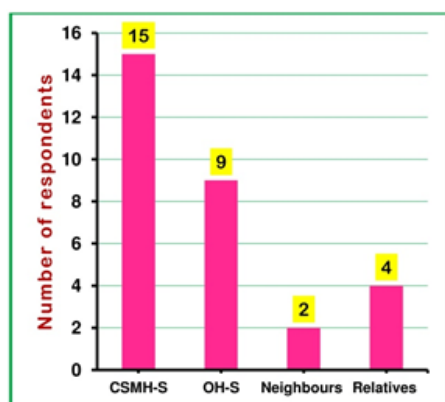
Demographic profile: A total of 78 beneficiaries of JSSK were interviewed. Out of 78 respondents, 6 (7.69%) were antenatal while the remaining 72 (92.30%) were post-natal cases. A majority of respondents (47.43%) belonged to the age group of 20-25 years while most spouses (46.15%) belonged to age group 26-30 years. 3.84% respondents were aged less than 20 years. 29.48% of respondents as well as their spouses were educated up to 10th Standard. The illiteracy among respondents and their spouses was 20% and 7%, respectively.

75.64% were homemakers and 6.41% were self-employed. 30.76% of spouses were skilled workers, followed by 25.64% working as office staff. 3.84% spouses were unemployed. Those with yellow-coloured and orange-coloured ration cards (issued to persons "below the poverty line" in the State of Maharashtra) comprised 25.64% and 46.15%, respectively. None of the respondents had a white-coloured ration card (issued to persons "above the poverty line" in the State of Maharashtra).

Awareness about JSSK: Though all the 78 respondents were enrolled under JSSK after admission to hospital, only 30 (38.46%) were aware about free delivery (including Caesarean section) and free treatment under JSSK (Table 1) and out of these, 15 revealed that the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital staff (CSMH-S) were their source of information about JSSK. (Figure 1)

Table 1: Awareness about various entitlements under JSSK (n=30)

Entitlement under JSSK	Number
Free delivery including Caesarean Section	30
Free medicines and consumables	25
Free treatment	30
Free diagnostics	10
Free diet for indoor patients	2
No user charges	2
Free transport to and from hospital and between hospitals	1

Figure 1: Source of information about JSSK (n=30)

CSMH-S = Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital staff; OH-S = Other hospital staff

Out-of-Pocket Expenses: 8 out of 12 (15.38%) respondents, who had availed of ambulance facility to come to the hospital, revealed that the waiting period for ambulance was less than half an hour. Out of 12 mothers who came by ambulance only 10 mothers availed of free ambulance service. 36 (46.15%) and 5 (6.41%) had come to the hospital at their own expenses, by autorickshaws and taxis, respectively. More than half of the interviewees (51.28%) spent less than 200 rupees (out-of-pocket expense) for transport to hospital, while 6.41% spent more than 200 rupees. 55 (70.51%) respondents revealed that they spent money from their own funds on medicines, after admission to hospital.

DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic profile: In this study, 47.43% of respondents were 20-25 years old while 46.15% spouses belonged to age group 26-30 years. Another study [11] reported that 63.10% were in the age group of 20-24 years. In our study, 3.84% respondents were less than 20 years old. This compares with NFHS-4 data, wherein 6% urban women aged 15-19 years were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey [12] More than 19% respondents were illiterate in the present study, which compares with the illiteracy level in Thane district. [13] The occupational profile of respondents compares with that reported by two other studies. [11,14] 54% respondents lived in joint families, which compares with the findings reported by a study from Aurangabad district [11]

Awareness about JSSK:

The awareness levels regarding JSSK is similar to that reported by studies from Rajasthan [15] and West Bengal. [16] In the present study, 50% reported that they received information about JSSK from staff of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital. Similar findings have been reported by other studies from Aurangabad district [11] and rural Karnataka. [17]

Out-of-pocket expenses:

In the present study, OOPE was mainly on purchase of medicines and transportation. A Rajasthan-based study reported that the share of medicine in OOPE was 59%, followed by sonography (18%), blood tests (8%), transportation (8%) and doctor consultation (7%). [15] A national survey analysis found that 80% of the households reported out of pocket expenditure for maternal health care services. [18] During the period 2004-2008, OOPE on institutional delivery in India was 39 US Dollars in public sector health facilities. [19]

CONCLUSION

Awareness of JSSK entitlements was found to be inadequate especially for free services, such as, transport to and from hospital and between hospitals and diet for indoor patients. Timely availability of medicines and other consumables is essential. There is need to increase awareness regarding various entitlements of JSSK in the community through community-based education and media campaigns.

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