

## **Knowledge on postpartum contraception and associated factors among antenatal women admitted to the obstetric wards in the Teaching Hospital Jaffna**

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**Introduction and Objectives:** Unmet need of postpartum contraception is known to have association with unexpected pregnancies and intended abortions. Studies on factors associated with knowledge on postpartum contraception among the population in Jaffna district was scarce. This study aimed to determine the factors associated with knowledge on postpartum contraception among antenatal women admitted to obstetric wards in the Teaching Hospital Jaffna.

**Methods:** This hospital based descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out among 311 antenatal women admitted in the Teaching Hospital Jaffna during October 2020 to December 2020. Participants were recruited using simple random sampling and data was collected via an interviewer administered questionnaire using KoBo Collect toolbox, a mobile based app. Descriptive and inferential statistics were performed using SPSS Software. Composite score was developed for knowledge and knowledge was compared using median as the cut off. Ethical clearance was obtained from Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

**Results:** Response rate was 94% (n=293). The mean ( $\pm$ SD) age of the respondents was 28.3 ( $\pm$ 5.9) years. Participants were predominantly Tamils (96.9%, n=284), Hindu (76.8%, n=225), married (99%, n=290), living in nuclear family (52.2%, n=153) and had income >30,000 rupees (61.1%, n=179). Considerable proportion was not aware that IUCD (69.9%, n=196) and male condom (58%, n=170) can be obtained from family planning clinic. Remarkable proportion (62.5%, n=183) was not aware whether male sterilisation was a permanent or a temporary method. It was observed that age of the mother (p value =0.02), family income (p=0.03), educational status of the mother (p=0.02), occupation (p=0.03) and attitude towards contraceptive use (p<0.001) were significantly associated with the knowledge. Marital status (p=0.67), ethnicity (p value=0.53), religion (p value=0.1) and family type (p=0.72) showed no associations.

**Conclusion:** Age of the mother, family income, educational status of the mother, occupation and attitude towards contraceptive use were having association with the knowledge. There is a great need to prioritize education of women to empower them to use postpartum contraception and policies are needed to encourage the women.

**Keywords:** Contraception, Postpartum contraception, Knowledge on contraception, Factors associated with the knowledge on postpartum contraception