

# Ante-Natal Care Among Working and Non-working Married Women in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu



## Sociology

KEYWORDS :

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### ABSTRACT

*The objective of the study to know the prevalence of ante-natal issues and care of working and non-working women and know the differences among the women in urban areas of Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu, India.*

*600 women who had a live birth during last one year preceding data collection. The data was tabulated and analyzed using the software SPSS 17.0 for Windows. Study findings showed that Majority (100%) vaccination was received by 100.0 percent mothers. Ante-natal health care system is being very best in the study area. Because, all respondents are educator and had better knowledge about the ante-natal care for avoid risk of delivery. Education and occupation are closely link with the ante-natal health care*

### Introduction:

Antenatal care (ANC) refers to pregnancy related health care provided by the doctors or health workers in the health centers or at home to the pregnant women. All women during the period of conception must receive some basic but professional antenatal care for safe motherhood. The ANC can contribute significantly to control maternal morbidity and mortality. It includes provision of correct dietary facilities and supply of iron and folic acids tablets to the pregnant women to maintain good health in addition to medical care. Improved nutritional status coupled with improved antenatal care can help to reduce the incidence of low weight babies and by thus reduce the pre-natal, neo-natal and infant mortality.

Conception and giving birth happen naturally. But some women face health problems during pregnancy. These women need constant examination. Most women deliver with help from women in the family who often lack the skills and resources to save the mother's life if it is in danger. (Kalyani Menon-Sen, A.K.Shiva Kumar, 2001) According to UNDP Human Development Report (1997), 88% of pregnant women (age 15-49) were found to be suffering from anemia. (Asia's women in agriculture, environment and rural production: India' 2006) The availability of routine prenatal care has played a part in reducing maternal death rates and miscarriages as well as birth defects, low birth weight, and other preventable health problems. (RUWSEC, 2002)

### Objective:

To know the prevalence of ante-natal issues and care of working and non-working Married women and know the differences among the women:

### Methods and Materials:

This paper is based on the primary data collected from the urban respondents (working and non-working married women in the reproductive age groups). The sample size fixed is 600 comprising of 300 working and 300 non-working or household respondents. The simple random sampling method was used to select the respondents. By interview method, a detailed survey schedule was administered to collect data from the respondents in urban areas of Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu. SPSS was used to process and analyze data. Calculate the percentage, index was constructing to analyze the factors, apply chi-square test, logistic regression and use of diagrams and graphs.

**Table 1**  
**Socio-Economic and Demography characteristics of Working and Non-working Married women**

SED-Characteristics		Working Married Women	Non-working Married women
Religion	Hindu	266(88.6)	226(75.3)
	Christian	27(9.1)	30(10.0)
	Muslims	7(2.3)	44(14.6)
Caste	SC	114 (38.0)	112(37.3)
	MBC	92(30.6)	38(12.6)
	BC	77(25.6)	119(39.6)
	OC/FC	17(5.6)	31(10.3)

Family type	Nuclear	295(98.3)	268 (89.3)
	Joint	5(1.6)	32(10.6)
Educational Attainment	Illiterate	-	-
	Primary	42(14.0)	142(47.4)
	Middle	38(12.6)	18(6.0)
	Secondary	14(4.6)	30(10.0)
	Hir.sec.	10(3.4)	16(5.3)
	Degree	180(60.0)	94(31.3)
Diploma	16(5.3)	-	
	Married	296(98.7)	292(97.3)
Marital status	Widowed	3(1.0)	8(2.7)
	Divorced	1(0.3)	-
Occupational status	Housewife	-	300 (100.0)
	Teaching	91(30.3)	-
	Small Business	42(14.0)	-
	Daily wage	36(12.0)	-
	Agri.cooly	40(13.4)	-
	Health Profession	45(15.0)	-
	Govt. Service	46(15.4)	-
Monthly Income	<=10000	173(57.6)	179(59.7)
	10001-20000	24(8.0)	19(6.3)
	20001-30000	41(13.7)	62(20.6)
	30001-40000	30(10.0)	11(3.6)
	>=40001	32(10.6)	29(9.6)
Ageat menarche	10-11	18(6.0)	8(2.6)
	12-13	106(35.4)	91(30.3)
	14-15	176(58.7)	201(67.0)
Age at marriage	15-19	97(32.3)	100(33.3)
	20-24	117(39.0)	128(42.7)
	25-29	76(25.3)	61(20.3)
	30-34	10(3.3)	11(3.6)
Current age	15-19	6(2.0)	-
	20-24	56(18.7)	121(40.3)
	25-29	58(19.3)	111(37.0)
	30-34	117(39.0)	34(11.3)
35-39	62(20.7)	33(11.0)	

T-natal Issues Index (ANI): An attempt is made to develop an index for Ante-natal issues being during pregnancy by the respondents. There are 8 questions related to Antenatal issues. Each question is dichotomous having two alternative answers

as “Yes” or “No” which are given scores “1” and “0” indicating experienced and no experienced of ante-natal issues respectively. For all the 8 questions, each respondent is to obtain the total score ranging from 0-8 which could be arbitrarily classified into three equal categories as low, moderate and high experience of ante-natal issues. The respondents are classified into these three categories on the basis of the total score obtained.

**Table 2**

Ante-natal Issues	Working Married women	Non-working Married women
Experienced any one Ante-natal problem	208(69.3)	178(59.3)
Type of Issues		
Swelling of hand and feet	50(16.7)	34(11.3)
Giddiness	42(14.0)	24(8.0)
Sever Vomiting	62(20.7)	58(19.3)
Fever	52(17.3)	44(14.7)
Urinary Problems	7(2.3)	9(3.0)
White discharge	29(9.7)	48(16.0)
Hyper Tension	21(7.0)	27(9.0)
Head ache	45(15.0)	48(16.0)
Ante-natal Health Care		
Went to first check-up	1-3 months	253(84.3)
	Above 3 months	47(15.7)

Timing of went to check-up	Below 5 times	235(78.3)	257(85.7)
	Regular check-up	65(21.7)	43(14.3)
AN-care Getting from..	Govt. HTospital	109(36.3)	111(37.0)
	Pvt. Hospital	191(63.7)	189(63.0)
Take TT Injection & IFA tablets		300(100.0)	300(100.0)
Eat special food		237(79.0)	178(59.3)
Type of food	Fruits	194(64.7)	128(42.7)
	Special Drinks	22(7.3)	33(11.0)
	Veg. & Greens	21(7.0)	17(5.7)

**Result and Discussion**

This section deals with socio-economic and demography characteristics of the respondents exercising influence over their reported ante-natal problems. The average current age 29.4 was comparatively high for the working women than non-working women. Among the respondent majority constitute Hindus. While belong to schedule caste 38.0 percent and lowed by the MBC 30.6 per cent, both community dominating the study areas. 98.3 per cent of the respondents belonging nuclear family system. 60.0 per cent of working women and 31.3 per cent women Educational attainment being degree level. The mean monthly family income of respondents is Rs. 18326 for married working and Rs. 19065 for non-working married women.

**Table 3**

**Cross Classification of Index of the Ante-natal Issues with SED-Characteristics**

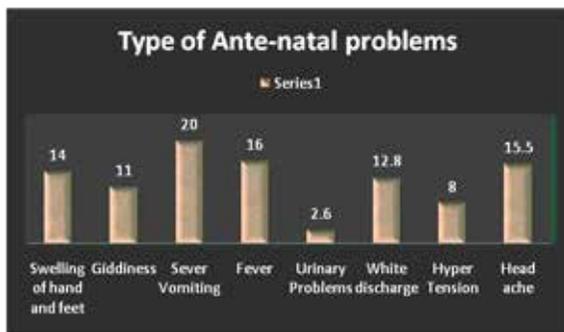
SED-Characteristic Low		Cross Classification of Index of the Ante-natal Issues with SED-Characteristics			Average score	Chi-square (value)		Logistic Regression ANOVO-F=1.554 Sig.=.111	
		Medium	High		X <sup>2</sup>	P	t.	Sig.	
Type of Respondent	Working	157(52.3)	28(51.9)	3(50.0)	1.6	.674	3.172	1.322	.187
	Non-working	143(47.7)	26(48.1)	3(50.0)	1.6				
Family type	Nuclear	281(93.7)	50(92.6)	5(83.3)	1.6	.906	1.558	.191	.849
	Joint	19(6.3)	4(7.4)	1(16.7)	1.6				
Educational Attainment	Illiterate	-	-	-	-	.144	32.514	1.149	.251
	Primary	88(29.3)	16(29.6)	1(16.7)	1.6				
	Middle	30(10.0)	2(3.7)	1(16.7)	1.6				
	Secondary	26(8.7)	5(9.3)	-	1.5				
	Hir.sec.	11(3.7)	5(9.3)	2(33.3)	2.2				
	Degree	135(45.0)	26(48.1)	2(33.3)	1.6				
	Diploma	10(3.3)	-	-	1.7				
Occupational status	Housewife	143(47.7)	26(48.1)	3(50.0)	1.6	.572	27.977	1.113	.267
	Teaching	49(16.3)	9(16.7)	-	1.6				
	Small Business	26(8.7)	1(1.9)	-	1.1				
	Daily wage	18(6.0)	3(5.6)	2(33.3)	1.9				
	Agri.cooly	20(6.7)	6(11.1)	-	1.8				
	Health Profession	22(7.3)	4(7.4)	-	1.5				
	Govt.Service	22(7.3)	5(9.3)	1(16.7)	1.8				

Nearly three fourth percent of working and nearly 60 percent of non-working married women having any one ante-issue, implying high prevalence of Ante-natal issues among working women. Chi-square result shows no significant association between the selected socio-economic characteristics and ante-natal issues. Swelling hand and feet, giddiness, sever vomiting, fever;

urinary problems, etc. are some of the issues reported by the respondents. Types of issues are same as among the working and non-working women, but the some with such experience are comparatively high or low among women. 16.7 percent of working and 11.3 per cent non-working married women experienced ‘swelling of hand and feet’. 14.0 per cent of working mar-

ried women and 8.0 per cent non-working women experienced 'giddiness' followed by 'sever vomiting' 20.7 per cent of working and 19.3 per cent non-working women experienced. Comparatively these three problems higher proportion having working married women than non-working women. 'Urinary problems', 'white discharge', 'hyper tension', 'head ache' these problems are higher proportion of non-working women than working women. The Index of Ante-natal issues 1.6, this score same to be among working and non-working women. An attempt is made to examine the linkage between background variables and the major ante-natal care experienced by the respondents. Education and occupation closely related with ante-natal care. The logistic regression analysis is tried to examine the net effect of the each independent variable on the dependent variable of ante-natal care. The dependent variable (dichotomous) is classified as "experienced of take health care during ante-natal period" and "no take care" which are given score values 1 and 0 respectively, that the odd ratio is high among degree level educated women and teaching work category women.

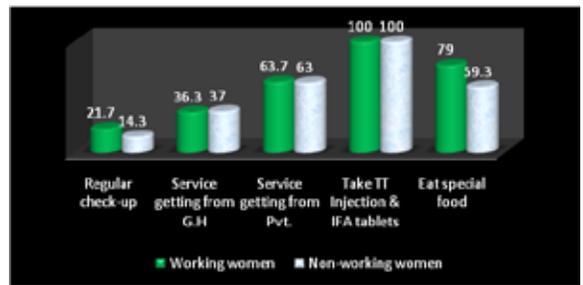
Figure 1



**Conclusion:**

This study concludes that there has been a considerable prevalence of the ante-natal issues and ante-natal care in the study area. The proportion of with experience of such issues as comparatively high for example 'swelling of hand and feet', 'giddiness', 'sever vomiting' are high percentage among working women, and 'urinary problems', 'white discharge', 'hyper tension', 'head ache' these problems are highly experienced non-working women. Ante-natal health care system is being very best in the study area. Because, all respondents are educator and had better knowledge about the ante-natal care for avoid risk of delivery. Education and occupation are closely link with the ante-natal care.

Figure 2



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