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KEYWORDS Anaemia. Pregnancy. Risk Factors. Garo. Meghalaya. India

ABSTRACT Some social and biological factors are considered as risk factors for developing anaemia during pregnancy among the Garo of Meghalaya, India. A total of 262 Garo pregnant women were interviewed thoroughly to obtain relevant socio biological information from those who were admitted for their delivery at the seven hospitals located in different parts of Meghalaya. Haemoglobin level at their third trimester of pregnancy was collected from the antenatal records of the respective hospitals. The overall incidence of anaemia during pregnancy is found to be 45.42% in the present population. Six factors (mother's age, mid upper arm circumference {MUAC}, education, economic position, antenatal care and habit of tobacco chewing during pregnancy) are significantly associated with anaemia during pregnancy. Mother's age <20 years, MUAC <20.9 cm illiterate or having little education and low economic condition are found to be as risk factors for developing anemia among the Garo which can be controlled effectively through the intervention programme and this may help to bring down the incidence of anaemia during pregnancy in the present ethnic group. Also it implies that more such studies are needed in other ethnic groups of North-eastern part of India to understand the problems of Anaemia during pregnancy in differenct ethnic groups.

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