

Utilisation of Antenatal Care (ANC) Service by the Scheduled Tribes in India

Satyajeet Nanda and S. Niranjana

International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, 400 088, Maharashtra, India
Fax: 022-91-5563257; E-mail: lips@bom3.vsnl.net.in

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ABSTRACT As a response to the Alma-Ata slogan of "Health for all by 2000", the safe motherhood emerged as one of the priority areas of the MCH programmes. The universal provision of antenatal care (ANC) to all expectant mothers has been set a goal by the Indian family welfare programme. The scheduled tribes in particular, being relatively at the lowest level of social and economic development, have not been able to cope with strategies in this line. Hence, here is an endeavour to examine the background characteristics of the scheduled tribe women to find out the possible determinants of the under-utilisation of ANC service by them. For this, multivariate technique has been used over the data regarding scheduled tribe women of India from the National Family Health Survey, 1992-93. The supply and demand factors associated with utilization of ANC service by women were examined. The result showed that factors like education at least upto certain optimum standard such as middle school and high school, increase of living standard and exposure to mass media are able to provide sufficient awareness and affordability to women for going for ANC service.