

Factors affecting follow up visits of a pregnant women in antenatal clinic of a primary health centre, Patna: A cross sectional study

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About, 93.8% of the study participants were motivated for first antenatal checkup by their family members itself and 96.3% study participants were mobilized for antenatal checkups by ASHA. Majority of study participants (39.9%) are accompanied by husband for antenatal checkup. Age, education, socioeconomic status, and the number of living children significantly influence the frequency of follow-up visits for antenatal check up.

BACKGROUND

The attendance of pregnant women at antenatal clinics plays a crucial role in ensuring optimal maternal and foetal health outcomes. So, the government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), which aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month. Despite progress in recent years, full antenatal care services utilization in India continues to be relatively low and inequitable, particularly in some states and districts. However, factors influencing their ANC follow-up visits remain underexplored. Understanding these factors is imperative for designing targeted interventions to improve antenatal care services utilization. This study aims to investigate the factors affecting pregnant women's adherence to ANC follow-up visits at a primary health centre in Patna.

METHODS

- A hospital based cross sectional study was conducted among women attending the antenatal clinic at primary health centre, Naubatpur, Patna from October 2023 to March 2024 after taking ethical approval from AIIMS Patna Institute Ethics committee.
- Sample size was calculated considering the proportion of clients attending minimum four antenatal check ups in rural areas of Bihar as per NFHS-5 was 25.2 % and with expected response rate of 90%, the study would require a sample size of 323 for estimating the expected proportion with 5% absolute precision and 95% confidence.
- Consecutive sampling was employed among 323 pregnant women who consented to take part in this study.
- A pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire which includes general information, questions regarding maternal healthcare utilization and questions on community support & awareness regarding ANC visits was used for the interviews.
- Data collection was done using Google forms, templates was generated in Microsoft Excel 2019 version and statistical analysis was done using IBM SPSS version-22.

RESULTS

Figure:1- Distribution of study participants according to the number of follow up antenatal check up done in present pregnancy

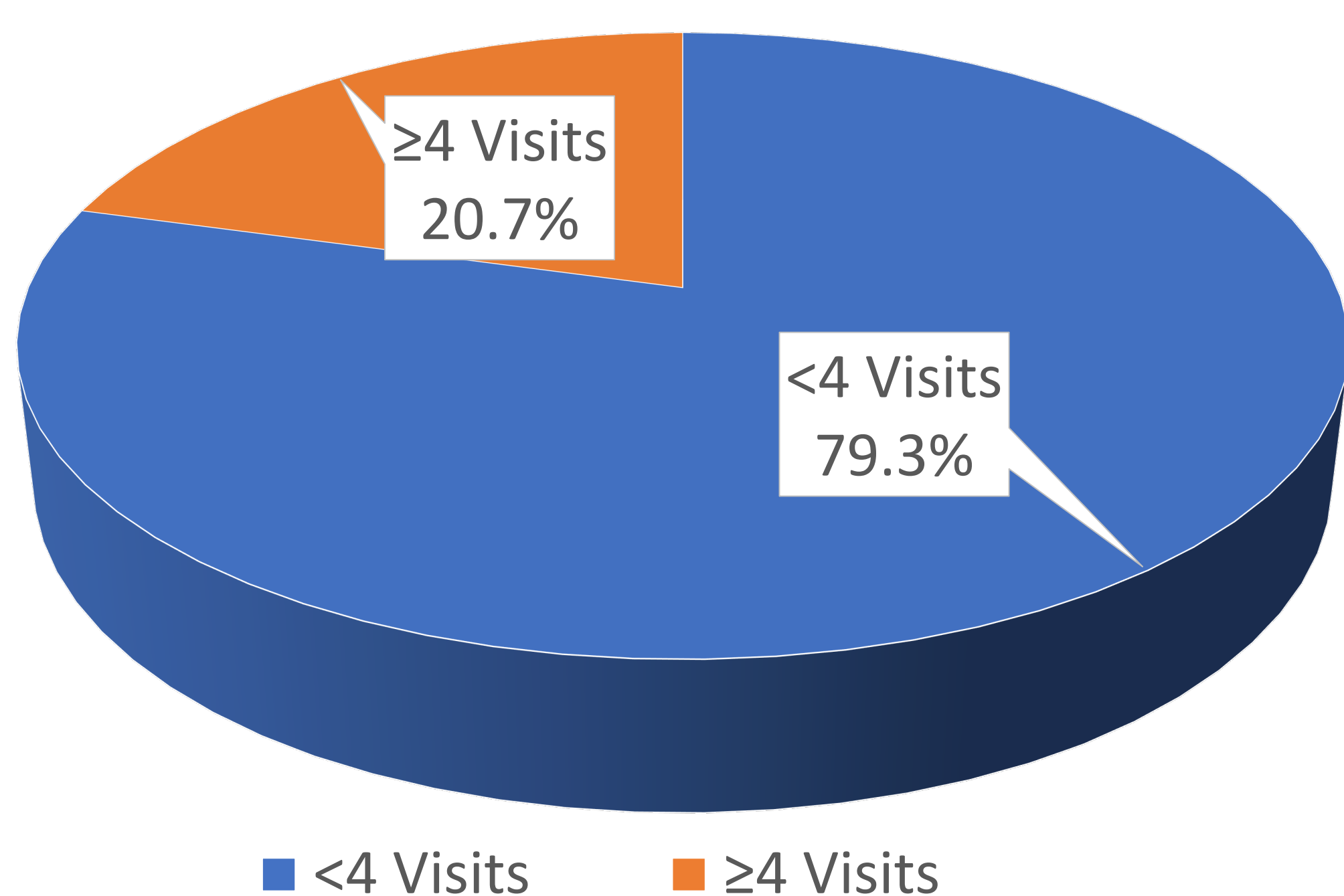


FIGURE:2-DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY PARTICIPANTS ACCORDING TO THEIR SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANTENATAL CHECK UP

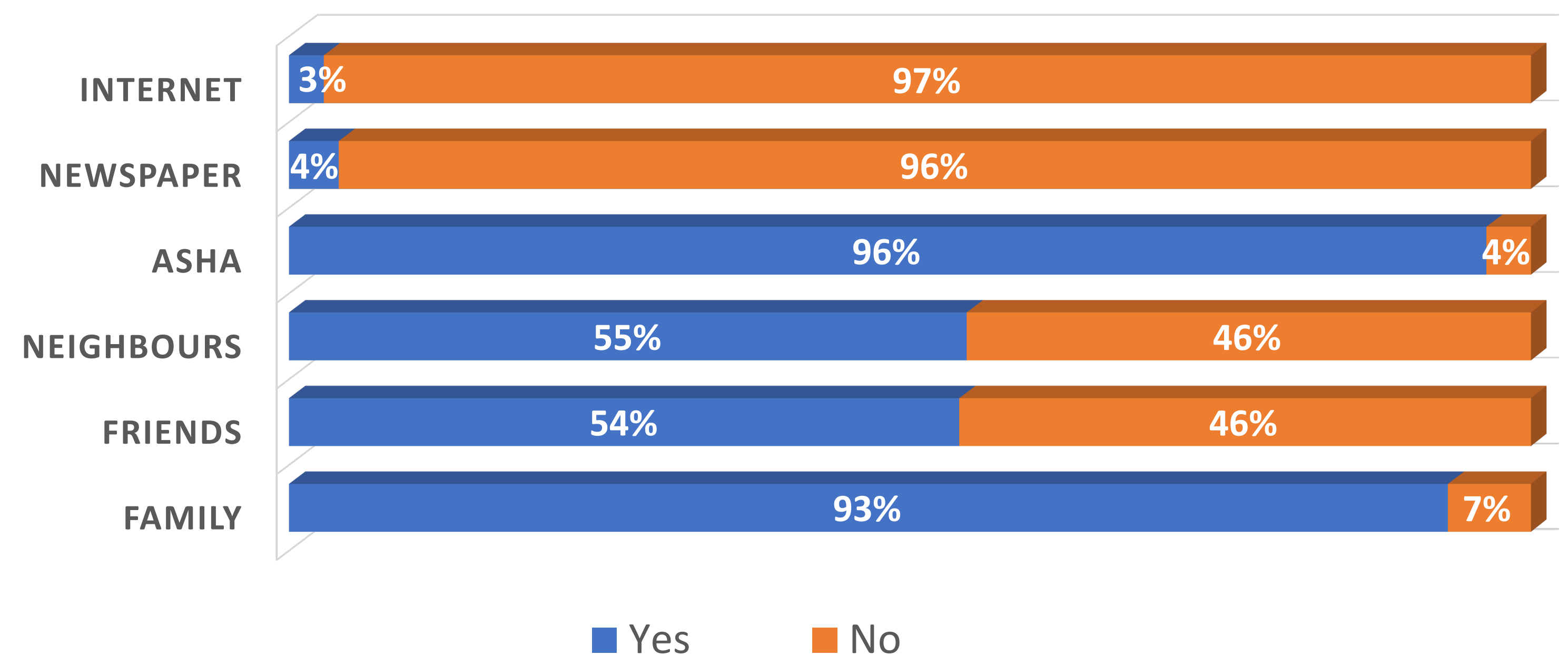


Table: 1- Association between number of follow up antenatal check up with various variables

Variables	Category	Number of follow up antenatal check up		Chi-square Test χ^2 (p-value)
		< 4 visits n (%)	≥ 4 visits n (%)	
Age (in years)	18-23	190 (84.4)	35 (15.6)	12.5 (0.002)
	24-29	60 (68.2)	28 (31.8%)	
	≥ 30	6 (60)	4 (40)	
Religion	Hindu	223 (79.1)	59 (20.9)	0.0433 (0.835)
	Muslim	33 (80.5)	8 (19.5)	
Education	Graduation	15 (100)	0 (0)	17.2 (0.002)
	Higher Secondary	40 (81.6)	9 (18.4)	
	Secondary	77 (71.3)	31 (28.7)	
	Primary	91 (77.1)	27 (22.9)	
	Illiterate	33 (100)	0 (0)	
Socioeconomic Status	Upper Class	2 (100)	0 (0)	15 (0.005)
	Upper Middle Class	27 (67.5)	13 (32.5)	
	Middle Class	84 (73.7)	30 (26.3)	
	Lower Middle Class	98 (90.7)	10 (9.3)	
	Lower Class	45 (76.3)	14 (23.7)	
Distance from home to PHC (in km)	≤ 5	154 (79.8)	39 (20.2)	0.0837 (0.772)
	> 5	102 (78.5)	28 (21.5)	
Number of living children	0	118(85.5)	20 (14.5)	53.5 (<0.001)
	1	73 (86.9)	11 (13.1)	
	2	45 (68.2)	21 (31.8)	
	3	20 (83.3)	4 (16.7)	
	4	0 (0)	11 (100)	

CONCLUSION

- About, 20.7% study participants had ≥ 4 follow up antenatal check up in present pregnancy.
- Factors such as age, education, socioeconomic status, and the number of living children significantly influence the frequency of follow-up visits for antenatal check up.
- Factors such as religion and distance from home to PHC are not influencing the follow-up visits for antenatal check up.

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

KEYWORDS: Pregnant Women, Antenatal Check Up, PMSMA, Follow up visits

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