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A Study on Socio Demographic Profile and Prevalence of Anaemia in Pregnant Women in Urban Slums of Tumkur City, Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Background: Anemia is a global public health problem, as compelling and harmful as epidemics of infectious diseases. In pregnancy, anaemia has a significant impact on the health of fetus as well as that of mother. It is one of the leading causes responsible for maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. Combating anemia during pregnancy has far reaching benefits in terms of safe motherhood and healthier future generations. **Materials and Methods:** A community based descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 144 pregnant mothers aged above 18 years and beyond 12 weeks of amenorrhea reporting to antenatal clinic of the Urban Health Centre, Kuripalya of urban slum in Tumkur city. A pre-tested, pre-designed questionnaire was used to record information. It includes socio-demographic variables, Physical examination, Systemic examination, Hemoglobin estimation. Several social factors like age, religion, literacy level, occupation, type of family, gravida status, para status and birth interval contributing to the severity of anemia were studied. **Results:** Prevalence of anemia in the present study was 66%. Majority of the pregnant women mildly anemic (32%). The prevalence of anemia in our study was higher in age group of <25yrs, lower literacy level, low socio-economic group, Multiparous women, women with birth interval of <2yrs. A statistically significant association was seen between severity of anemia and Parity. **Conclusion:** Lower literacy level, lack of health education & awareness, inadequate nutrition due to financial constraints & inadequate utilisation of health services etc are some of the many factors leading to prevalence of anemia in the society. It is recommended to improve the quality of antenatal care in the field practice areas.

Key word: Pregnancy, Anaemia, Prevalence, Cross Sectional study.