

Original article

Factors Affecting the Utilization of Postnatal Care Services in Readymade Garments Working Mother

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Abstract

Postnatal care (PNC) is an important pillar of safe motherhood. This period is considered as a critical phase for both mother and newborn, especially for working mothers like ready-made garments working mother.

A cross sectional study was conducted to determine the factors affecting the utilization of PNC services among the selected five RMGs working mothers in Dhaka through a pretested semi-structured questionnaire.

The mean age of the women was 25.01±3.72 years and mean average monthly family income was 18239.54±5484.21 BDT. Cent percent of them were literate and a trivial portion (6.0%) were illiterate among their husbands. Two-third of the respondents (65.0%) were received, some sort of PNC service from their garments. Among them, less than one third (28.6%) received some sort of maternal health care and only 2.6% received neonatal health care services. All most cent percent women had knowledge about occupational and health safety policy. Most of the women (95.7%) had not experienced any type of complaint, less than two-fifth of the women (38.1%, 37.5%) could not get their maternity leave and regular salary during their maternity period as per the labor act. Only 1.9% women faced some sort of difficulties during availed their maternity leave. The association between the economic state is statistically significant with the type of services utilized by women (p=0.039). Utilization of PNC service was satisfactory among the studied mothers. More availability and accessibility of PNC services, promotion of information and education and in the garments will be increase the effectiveness and sustain utilization of the quality of PNC services.

Key words Factors, utilization, PNC services, RMG working mothers, Bangladesh.

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Introduction

Ready-made garments (RMGs) sector recognized as a most important economic strength of Bangladesh.¹ RMG export value was USD 34,133 million and it is 84% of the total export in 2018. In fiscal year 2017-2018, this sector contributed 11% of our national GDP.² An ample proportion of the total population of the country about 4.1 million people are working in this sector, and of which 85% are women.^{2,3} Garments authorities prefer female worker, cause they are cheaper, copiously available and convenient than male workers.³

Improving maternal health, including postnatal status is a global public health concern.⁴ Bangladesh reduced maternal mortality ratio from 194 to 163 deaths per 100,000 live births from 2010 to 2020, but which is still far away to achieve SDGs 3.1.1 indicator.⁵⁻⁸ About 60% of

global maternal deaths are materialized by hemorrhage, infection, obstructed labor, unsafe abortion and high blood pressure.⁹ Postnatal period is treated as neglected time for the provision of quality services, particularly for working women. During this period, maternal complications and maternal deaths are higher than others period of maternal cycle.¹⁰

The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) are giving efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity by implementing many women-oriented developmental programs. Despite this, GOB is still working with a high maternal mortality ratio.¹¹ The study can provide new insight to devote resources for achieving the best possible quality of maternal and child health services. So, that GOB

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and policy-makers can initiate strategies to improve of maternal health care services in the workplace.

Methods

This cross sectional study was carried out to determine the factors affecting the utilization of PNC services among the RMGs working mothers. The study was undertaken between July to December, 2018 in the purposively selected five RMG located in Savar and Gazipur areas of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Data were collected from 349 eligible women by using a pretested semi-structured questionnaire which were either interviewers or self-administered depending on the convenience of the women. The information obtained included socio-economic characteristics, utilization of PNC services and factors affecting the utilization of PNC services in the workplace

The collected data were analyzed by using IBM SPSS v23 software. Descriptive statistics such as mean and percentile were computed for continuous variables of the women. Fisher's exact test was used to assess significance of associations between two nominal variables and a P-value of <0.05 at 95% confidence interval was taken as significant. The results were presented in tables.

Participation was voluntary and confidentiality was maintained by using a individual code number for interview participant. The study was validated by the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

Result

The socioeconomic outlines of the RMGs working mothers is described in the table 1. Most of the women (78.2%) were aged 20-29 years, mean age was 25.01±3.72 years with an age range 18-36 years. The study revealed that, cent percent of the respondents were completed different levels of education and in the case of their husband, a small portion (6.0%) was illiterate. Garment worker cited as a common h occupation of their husband (55.3%) and only 4.6% were unemployed. T The mean average of the monthly household income was 18239.54±5484.21 BDT (Bangladeshi taka) and majorities (84.2%) earned ≤22,600 BDT.

Utilization of PNC services in workplace

In terms of utilization of services, table 2 briefs the associated factors of postnatal care services. Two-third of the respondents (65.0%) were received, some sort of PNC service from their garment health facilities. Among the service receivers, less than one third (28.6%) received some sort of maternal health care services and only 2.6% received neonatal health care services. Most of the women (90.0%) were found health care provider in their garment health facilities. All most cent percent women states that, breast feeding facilities and day-care

center were present in their workplaces. Vaccination facilities for mother and child were not present is cited by 96.6% of the women.

Factors affecting the utilization of PNC services in the workplace

All most cent percent women had knowledge about occupational and health safety policy, and authorities arranged some sort of program in their garments respectively. Most of the women (95.7%) had not experienced any type of complaint during their maternal period. Less than two-fifth of the women (38.1%, 37.5%) could not get their maternity leave and regular salary during their maternity period as per the labor act. Only 1.9% women faced some sort of difficulties during availed their maternity leave.

Table 1: Socioeconomic outlines of the respondents (n=349)

Socio-economic outlines	n	%
Age group		
≤19 years	11	3.2
20-24 years	147	42.1
25-29 years	126	36.1
≥30 years	65	18.6
Mean±SD= 25.01±3.72 years		
Educational level		
Illiterate	0	0.0
Primary	176	50.4
Secondary	155	44.4
Higher secondary and above	18	5.2
Educational level of husband		
Illiterate	21	6.0
Primary	125	35.8
Secondary	149	42.7
Higher secondary and above	54	15.5
Occupation of husband		
Garments worker	193	55.3
Businessman	53	15.2
Day labor	70	20.1
Unemployed	16	4.6
Others (Civil services and informal sectors)	17	4.9
Monthly household income		
≤22600 BDT	294	84.2
>22600 BDT	55	15.8
Mean±SD= 18239.54±5484.21 BDT		

Table 2: Utilization of PNC services (n=349)

Factors	n	%
PNC services received from the garment health facilities		
No	122	35.0
Yes	227	65.0
Type of PNC services (n=227)		
Primary health care (PHC)	156	68.7
Maternal health care (MHC)	65	28.6
Neonatal health care (NHC)	6	2.6
Presence of healthcare provider in the garment health facilities		
No	35	10.0
Yes	314	90.0
Presence of breast feeding corner in the garments		
No	3	0.9
Yes	346	99.1
Presence of vaccination facility in the garment health facilities		
No	337	96.6
Yes	12	3.4
Presence of day-care center in the garments		
No	2	0.6
Yes	347	99.4

Table 3: Factors affecting the utilization of PNC services (n=349)

Factors	n	%
Knowledge about occupational and health safety policy		
No	6	1.7
Yes	343	98.3
Complaint regarding pregnancy from factory management		
No	334	95.7
Yes	15	4.3
Availed maternity leave during pregnancy		
No	133	38.1
Yes	216	61.9
Faced any difficulties to avail maternity leave (n=216)		
No	212	98.1
Yes	4	1.9
Get regular salary at maternity leave (n=216)		
No	81	37.5
Yes	135	62.5

Table 4 demonstrates that, the association between the socioeconomic outline and type of services received from the garments health facility. The association between the economic state (average monthly family income) was statistically significant with the type of services utilized by women (p=0.039). There was no significant association found within other variables of the socioeconomic outline and type of services received.

Table 4: Association of the socioeconomic outline with the type of services received

	Type of services received				P-value
	PHC	MHC	NHC	Total	
Age group					
≤19 years	4(2.6)	2(3.1)	0(0.0)	6(2.6)	*0.406
20-24 years	60(38.5)	28(43.1)	2(33.3)	90(39.6)	
25-29 years	67(42.9)	22(33.8)	1(16.7)	90(39.6)	
≥30 years	25(16.0)	13(20.0)	3(50.0)	41(18.1)	
Educational level of the respondent					
Illiterate	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	*0.153
Primary	77(49.4)	42(64.6)	5(83.3)	124(54.6)	
Secondary	70(44.9)	19(29.2)	1(16.7)	19(29.2)	
HS and above	9(5.8)	4(6.2)	0(0.0)	13(5.7)	
Educational level of husband					
Illiterate	8(5.1)	2(3.1)	1(16.7)	11(4.8)	*0.495
Primary	62(39.7)	21(32.3)	3(50.0)	86(37.9)	
Secondary	61(39.1)	28(43.1)	2(33.3)	91(40.1)	
HS and above	25(16.0)	14(21.5)	0(0.0)	39(17.2)	

Table 4: (Continue)

	Type of services received			Total	P-value
	PHC	MHC	NHC		
Occupation of husband					
Garments worker	84(53.8)	29(44.6)	4(66.7)	117(51.5)	*0.757
Business	25(16.0)	16(24.6)	0(0.0)	41(18.1)	
Day labor	32(20.5)	13(20.0)	2(33.3)	47(20.7)	
Unemployed	9(5.8)	4(6.2)	0(0.0)	13(5.7)	
Others	6(3.8)	3(4.6)	0(0.0)	9(4.0)	
Monthly household income					
≤22600 BDT	134(85.9)	47(72.3)	6(100)	187(82.4)	**0.039
>22600 BDT	22(14.1)	18(27.7)	0(0.0)	40(17.6)	

**Statistically significant value * Fisher's exact test

Table 5: Association of socioeconomic outlines with faced any difficulties to avail maternity leave

	Faced any difficulties to avail maternity leave			P-value
	No	Yes	Total	
Age group				
≤19 years	6(2.8)	0(0.0)	6(2.8)	*0.500
20-24 years	77(36.3)	3(75.0)	80(37.0)	
25-29 years	84(39.6)	1(25.0)	85(39.4)	
≥30 years	45(21.2)	0(0.0)	45(21.2)	
Educational level of the respondent				
Illiterate	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	*0.293
Primary	117 (55.2)	4(100)	85(39.4)	
Secondary	85(40.1)	0(0.0)	85(40.1)	
HS and above	10(4.7)	0(0.0)	10(4.7)	
Educational level of husband				
Illiterate	10(4.7)	0(0.0)	10(4.6)	*0.606
Primary	83(39.2)	3(75.0)	86(39.8)	
Secondary	85(40.1)	1(25.0)	86(39.8)	
HS and above	34(16.0)	0(0.0)	34(15.7)	
Occupation of husband				
Garments worker	105(49.5)	4(100)	109(50.5)	*0.611
Business	40(18.9)	0(0.0)	40(18.5)	
Day labor	45(21.2)	0(0.0)	45(20.8)	
Unemployed	10(4.7)	0(0.0)	10(4.6)	
Others	12(5.7)	0(0.0)	12(5.6)	
Monthly household income				
≤22600 BDT	177(83.5)	3(75.0)	180(83.3)	*0.520
>22600 BDT	35(16.5)	1(25.0)	36(16.7)	

* Fisher's exact test

Table 5 interprets that, the socioeconomic outline had no significant relation to face any difficulties to avail maternity leave. Table 6 reveals that, the association between the knowledge of RMG women worker about occupational and health safety policy and faced any difficulties to avail maternity leave had also not statistically significant.

Table 6: Association of knowledge about occupational and health safety policy with different factors related to the workplace

	Knowledge about occupational and health safety policy			P-value
	No	Yes	Total	
Faced any difficulties to avail maternity leave				
No	1(100)	211(98.1)	212(98.1)	*1.000
Yes	0(0.0)	4(1.9)	4(1.9)	
Get regular salary during maternity leave				
No	0(0.0)	81(37.7)	81(37.5)	*1.000
Yes	1(100)	134(62.3)	135(62.5)	

* Fisher’s exact test

Discussion

Utilization of maternal health care services is an important concern for both the safe transition of mother through pregnancy and childbirth.¹² The socioeconomic outlines is an important factor for assessment of the utilization of the PNC services of the RMG women workers. Most of the women (78.2%) were aged 20-29 years with mean age of 25.01±3.72 years, which is similar to the studies in Bangladesh¹, Nigeria^{13,14} and Tanzania.¹⁵ It reveals that, younger RMGs mothers are seeking more PNC services. The study revealed that, cent percent of the respondents were completed different levels of education and in the case of their husband, a small portion (6.0%) was illiterate. These findings demonstrations that, their level of education is high¹ and also their literacy level rates are above the national adult literacy rate (78.2 in male and 73.0 in female).⁷ The mean average of the monthly household income was 18239.54±5484.21 BDT which is more than monthly household income (15,988 BDT) at the national level.¹⁶

Utilization of PNC services in workplace

In this study, garments authorities provided adequate PNC services and associated facilities for working mothers in their workplace. Two-third of the respondents (65.0%) were received, some sort of PNC service from their garment health facilities which is higher than the national figure (36%) and almost similar (73.5%) with the rural Bangladesh.¹⁷ Among the service receivers, less than one third (28.6%) received some sort of maternal health care services and only 2.6% received neonatal health care services. The association between the

economic state was statistically significant with the type of services utilized by women (p=0.039). There was no significant association found within other variables of the socioeconomic outline and type of services received. In the present study, it is revealed that postnatal care utilization reduces by lower socioeconomic state.¹⁸

Factors affecting the utilization of PNC services in the workplace

All most cent percent women had knowledge about occupational and health safety policy, and authorities arranged some sort of program in their garments respectively. Most of the women (95.7%) had not experienced any type of complaint during their maternal period. Less than two-fifth of the women (38.1%, 37.5%) could not get their maternity leave and regular salary during their maternity period as per the labor act. These findings are contradictory with the maternity benefit of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006.^{19,20}

Conclusion

PNC services utilization was satisfactory in the studied garments. The findings of the study showed that female education, monthly household income and presence of maternal health care facilities in the workplace ruled as important factors in the utilization of PNC services. Availability and interaction with health care providers also affected the utilization of the services. There needs to increase coverage and strengthening of the services in the RMGs health facilities through skilled health care professionals and medical supplies. Creating awareness about sustainable maternal and child health programs and motivation of service receivers will support to achieve furthermore better results in postnatal services utilization.

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