

Unintended pregnancy during COVID-19 pandemic among women attending antenatal care in northwest Ethiopia: Magnitude and associated factors

Abstract

Background:- COVID-19 pandemic has a great impact on the disruption of maternal health care services. Family planning is one component of maternal health care service that needs attention during this devastating time. Compromise on family planning services and the preventive strategies of COVID-19 might increase the burden of unintended pregnancy but, there is limited evidence that shows the magnitude of unintended pregnancy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore the objective of this study was to assess unintended pregnancy during the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated factors among women attending antenatal care in northwest Ethiopia.

Methods:- This study was an institutional-based cross-sectional study, including 424 women attending antenatal care from November 12/2020 to December 12/ 2020. The study participants were selected using a systematic random sampling technique. A pretested questionnaire was used. Binary logistic regression (Bivariable and Multivariable) was employed. The adjusted odds ratio with a 95% confidence interval was used to declare statistically significant variables based on $p < 0.05$ in the multivariable logistic regression model.

Results:- The magnitude of unintended pregnancy during the COVID-19 pandemic among women attending antenatal care was found to be 47.17% (42.2%-52.2%). Women didn't expose to community education (AOR=2.2; 95%CI1.1-4), women with no bad obstetric history (AOR=2.3; 95%CI1.3-4.1), a woman was not the primary decision maker for family planning service (AOR=2.9;95%CI 1.5-5.7), no complication during index pregnancy (AOR=5.4; 95% CI 2.2-13) and women with no health care provider support (AOR=2.4, 95%CI1.4-3.9) were significantly associated with unintended pregnancy.

Conclusions:- The magnitude of unintended pregnancy was found to be high. Community education about maternal health services including family planning,

improving women's decision-making power for maternal health care services, giving emphasis on pregnancy-related complications with health care provider support, and pregnant women with bad obstetric history were suggested to reduce the problem.

Keywords:- Unintended pregnancy, Gondar, Ethiopia