

Utilization of Maternal Healthcare Services in Tanzania

Maternal health care services have an important role in the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity. In most developing countries, the utilization of maternal health services has remained poor. The study on maternal health care utilization and the associated factors can help in identifying critical issues related to the health status of women. The recently conducted Demographic and Health Survey (DHS, 2010) in Tanzania has collected information related to several areas of importance to maternal health such as the provision of antenatal care, place of delivery and post natal care. This paper, using DHS, 2010, examines the patterns and determinants of maternal health care utilization in Tanzania. The paper further analyses the role of antenatal care in the utilization of maternal health care services. The analysis revealed that the coverage of maternal health care utilization is poor in Tanzania. Only forty three percent of the women whose last birth occurred five years before the survey made four or more antenatal care visits, only half of the deliveries took place in a health facility and around 65 percent of the women did not receive post natal care. The socio-economic factors showed strong gradients on the utilization of maternal health care services in Tanzania.