

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Men's Role in Emergency Obstetric Care in Osun State of Nigeria

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Abstract

This study was conducted among the Yoruba of South-West Nigeria to examine the role of men in emergency obstetric care, as men determine whether and when their spouses visit health clinics in most cultures. Simple random sampling was used to select 900 households from three communities in Osun State, south-west Nigeria. Separate interviewers interviewed the man and his wife in each of the households. In polygamous families, two wives of reproductive age were also interviewed. The quantitative survey was complemented with a number of focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and key informant interviews. There was high level of awareness of emergency obstetric conditions by men, particularly in relation to pregnancy signs and labour pains (53.2%). Respondents reported that men play useful roles during their partner's obstetric conditions (89.2%). Women take decisions on health-seeking behaviour during emergency obstetric conditions in the absence of the male partner. Education is found to be the major determinant of this change in male knowledge and behaviour. There is a need to further promote universal basic education in the country especially in areas where the observable change in this study has not been noted. There is also a need to extend the study to other zones in Nigeria in order to have a national picture. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2005; 9[3]:59-71)

Keywords: Cultures, Polygamous families, Emergency, Male

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