

“Correlates of Paternal Participation in maternal and Child Health care in India”

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Rational of the study: Over the years, the issue of maternal health was predominantly seen and treated as a purely feminine matter. The involvement of men in ensuring and enhancing maternal health is actually a new idea, first hatched at a conference in Cairo in 1994. As a result in the last few years more attention has been focusing on the issue of male involvement in reproductive health. The literature suggests that there are many studies done to acknowledge the importance of male involvement in maternal care, however it is important to understand the factor which are influencing male involvement in maternal and child care. Therefore in this article, the effort was made to understand the factors influencing men involvement in maternal care.

Objective: The primary objective of this article is to understand the factors influencing men involvement in maternal and child health care in India. However the attempt is made to understand the factors by classifying in three groups such as, factors related to men, factors related to women and the common factors.

Methodology: In order to serve the study purpose, the data from National Family Health survey round-3 (NFHS-3) was analyzed for India, Both women and men files were merged for analysis purpose. Age, education, exposure to mass media and occupation are studied separately for men and women, and place of residence, standard of living, age difference between couple, number of living children, sex of last child (if it is second child) caste, religion and family size or type of family are taken as common factors for study purpose.

Findings: The result suggests that education, occupation and exposure to mass media are important factors at individual level, however women education has significant influence than the men education and men exposure to mass media has more impact on male involvement. In the common factors standard of living, number of living children and age difference between couple are the most influential factors. So it is suggested that there should be some more efforts to reach the men through mass media, and efforts should be done to educate the women more and more.

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