**Interview details**

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| --- | --- |
| Participant ID | HKAP03F |
| Municipality | Maya Devi |
| Occupation | Unemployed |
| Education (grade) | 10 |
| Type of household | Joint |
| Ethnicity | Tharu, marginalized |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 1 |
| Gestation age in months | 4 |
| Start time | 8:36 |
| End time | 9:46 |
| Interviewer | Mahesh Chauhan |
| Date | 14/02/2023 |
| Name of translator | Anushka Thapa |
| Name of transcriber | Anushka Thapa |

**Interview**

# INTERVIEWER:

What is your job?

# PARTICIPANT:

Right now, all of my work is over.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you mean all your work is over?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I am currently not working at all. I used to work on contract work, but now I do not have any job.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does it mean that you stay at home?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. I was employed abroad but I came back.

# INTERVIEWER:

In which country were you working?

# PARTICIPANT:

Dubai.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you been to school?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have until grade 10. It's been 11 years since I left school.

# INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned that you are Tharu. Are you considered Dalits?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, we are.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you live in a joint family?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, all of the members of the family stay under the same roof.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many people are living with you?

# PARTICIPANT:

We are six people: me, my wife and my child, my mother, my father and my brother.

# INTERVIEWER:

You said that your wife is pregnant. How many weeks pregnant is your wife?

# PARTICIPANT:

After the test, we knew that she was pregnant.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you do it at home or did you go to the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

At home. An FCHV came to our house for a check-up when we couldn’t visit the health post on our own for the last two months. She informed my wife to take iron tablets. I wasn’t present there.

# INTERVIEWER:

After that did you go to the hospital for a checkup?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, we went to the health post one month ago.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know how long has she been pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

Almost four months. At the health post, they told us that she was three months pregnant.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is it your first child?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have a daughter. She is six years old.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did she have any miscarriages before this?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, she has two before the birth of my daughter.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what might be the reasons? Was it because she was carrying heavy stuff or doing hard work?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, that’s exactly the reason why. Our family was suggested to seek medical help, but nothing happened.

# INTERVIEWER:

It is nice that you are sharing all this information with me. Do you know if your wife went to antenatal check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

The doctor said we have to go back in three months now.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go for a check-up to confirm that she was pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, an FCHV came and took a urine sample for the test. So we didn’t have to go to the health post for check-ups.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you buy the kit?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I did.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go to the hospital for a check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

She didn’t go immediately after the pregnancy was confirmed but she went a few months later. I didn't go with her, so everything she told me I'm telling you.

# INTERVIEWER:

You did not accompany her?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did your wife tell you about her hospital visit?

# PARTICIPANT:

She went and told me that she had an ultrasound.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did she have any blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did the doctor advise her to have an ultrasound?

# PARTICIPANT:

The doctor advised us to do it since my wife had some health issues. The doctor wanted to see the condition of our baby. He informed us that the baby has good health and that my wife has a lack of blood. He gave us medicine.

# INTERVIEWER:

How did he know that she has a lack of blood without any blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know much about this. I do not know whether she has taken any blood or urine test.

# INTERVIEWER:

Didn’t you ask your wife about it?

# PARTICIPANT:

She said that the baby is normal and healthy. That is why I didn’t ask her about anything else. We were more concerned about the baby, so I didn’t think it was important to ask about anything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Since your wife is pregnant, how do you help her?

# PARTICIPANT:

Help?

# INTERVIEWER:

I mean what work do you do to help her? She is pregnant and at this point in her life, it is crucial to provide her with support and help.

# PARTICIPANT:

I do look after her. I mean besides cooking food and cleaning the house, I restrict her to carry heavy kinds of stuff. That’s it.

# INTERVIEWER:

How do you look after her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I provide her with nutritious food and if any heavy stuff needs to be carried then I help her with that. There isn’t much work at home. We cook our food in firewood, and I bring wood from nearby. Bringing wood is a tiresome job so we don’t ask her to do that.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you talk about health with your wife?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, we do not have any conversations about health with each other.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she comes to you and shares that she has difficulties, how do you answer?

# PARTICIPANT:

She comes and shares that she has difficulties with her work or her health. Nothing else. She didn’t take her medicine for two or three days so I asked her if I should buy medicine for her but it's quite far from here, so I haven’t been able to go and buy medicine for her.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have any idea of what is done during antenatal check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

The condition of the baby is checked and whether he is in a normal position. They check the blood and sugar levels too. Whether it is affecting the baby in any possible way. We consult with the doctor and follow their advice. It is also encouraged to eat meat to improve the health of the baby and the mother.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know where to go for an antenatal check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

During my wife’s first pregnancy, we went to a public hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did they do during this check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

They checked her after I took her there. Then we went for an ultrasound and even blood tests. Then after all the tests, we were informed by the doctor that everything was normal. I told the doctor that my wife was pregnant and she was experiencing stomach aches. Then the doctor asked us whether she was taking any medicine or not. At that time she was taking calcium and iron tablets.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you send your wife alone or accompany her during her antenatal check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

I accompany her.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think pregnant women should go for a checkup alone or with someone?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, it is not good to send her alone. There might be issues if you go alone. If I accompany her then I will be aware of her issues too but if I don’t accompany her, I will not know about them.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you pay for the consultation at the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I had to.

# INTERVIEWER:

How much did you pay and what for?

# PARTICIPANT:

For ultrasounds and for the ticket that we take for a check-up.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go to a public or private hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Private hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

In your opinion, what might be the reasons for pregnant women to hesitate to go for an antenatal check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, she doesn’t hesitate to go.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think other pregnant women go for consultation without any hesitation?

# PARTICIPANT:

Some may hesitate while some may not. Since they come from a rural area, they might hesitate.

# INTERVIEWER:

What might be the reasons of this hesitation?

# PARTICIPANT:

Maybe because of feeling shy to talk. If it is about issues related to the sex organ then they might feel shy. My wife may feel shy to share her issues with the doctor so I told the doctor for her.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you normally ask the doctor when you go with your wife for an antenatal check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

It's good to go for a check-up. It helps us to know the condition of the baby.

# INTERVIEWER:

You said that for this pregnancy, you did not accompany her to the antenatal check-up. Did she go alone?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, her relatives in her hometown accompanied her.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did she go for her antenatal check-up near her hometown?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, the hospital is nearby her home so she went there for the consultation.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did any relative go with her?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, she went on her own.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know which blood tests are done during pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

I do not have any idea.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think blood test during pregnancy is good?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it is. Blood tests help us to know whether the mother or the child is infected with AIDS or not. I do not know anything more than this.

# INTERVIEWER:

There is no right or wrong answer. Please feel free to share your thoughts without hesitations. Do you have any idea what tests or procedures are done during an antenatal checkup?

# PARTICIPANT:

When we go to visit the doctor, they look at our report and inform us whether the baby’s condition is getting better or not and inform us about the blood report. They tell us about the amount of blood present in the body.

# INTERVIEWER:

What diseases are detected with blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

AIDS and “cancer”. This is all I know.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what are the symptoms of a lack of blood?

# PARTICIPANT:

They may feel weak because of a lack of blood. Other issues will also arise such as difficulty in working, communicating with others, etc. A lack of blood is common during pregnancy.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard about sexually transmitted diseases?

# PARTICIPANT:

“AIDS”.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, it is, have you heard about other diseases than AIDS?

# INTERVIEWER:

These diseases are usually transmitted from one person to another through sexual contact, and even through other means such as blood transfusion.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it gets spread through talking with each other too.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you know about lack of blood? How does it happen?

# PARTICIPANT:

Because of food. Better food will help to prevent a lack of blood.

# INTERVIEWER:

What are the symptoms associated with a lack of blood in the body?

# PARTICIPANT:

Dizziness. We can feel weak and have difficulties walking. Besides this, they don’t want to talk or work. They want to sleep all the time. I don’t know anything else than this.

# INTERVIEWER:

How can we prevent the lack of blood in our bodies?

# PARTICIPANT:

We can encourage a pregnant woman to eat nutritious food including soups, milk products, etc. We should also avoid working during pregnancy or carrying heavy stuff.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think the lack of blood during pregnancy will affect the baby?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, if the mother doesn’t have enough blood then the baby will not get its nutrition too. Only if the mother eats nutritious food, the baby will get nutrition too.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now, let’s talk a bit about HIV. Have you heard of HIV before?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where and how did you hear about it?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t remember where but I do have decent knowledge about it. I think I heard about it during my studies. HIV is a disease that infects humans. It might get transmitted when we stay together or even talk to each other. That’s all I know [laughs]. We get attracted to the other person.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you mean we shouldn’t have sexual contacts randomly?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it is not a nice thing to do at all.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever had a conversation with an HIV-infected person?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever seen anyone infected?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have. At first, I didn’t know that the person was infected with the disease. After a while, I felt that the person might be infected because of the changes in his physical appearance. That person used to visit India frequently. There was a rumor in the village that he has HIV. We cannot go to visit him after knowing this about him.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you learn about him by listening to the rumour in the village.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How did he know about is infection?

# PARTICIPANT:

He came to know about it after a blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know how the person might have been infected?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know but I think he had sex with many women.

# INTERVIEWER:

Was it due to having sex in his home or outside?

# PARTICIPANT:

Outside.

# INTERVIEWER:

What symptoms did he have after getting the disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

Mainly he became very lean. He was used to feeling weak while working maybe due to his lean body. His face looked like there was swelling. He used to look sick all the time.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did he take medicines?

# PARTICIPANT:

He took medicines but I don't know where he obtained them. He died.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what problems would face a pregnant woman infected with HIV AIDS?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know about it. It can also affect the child. The pregnant woman doesn’t have the energy to work and may have body and abdomen pain. The mother may be stressed after knowing that she has the disease.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard about hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have heard about it but I don't know much about what it is.

# INTERVIEWER:

Hepatitis B is a type of liver infection. It can be transmitted through blood and sexual intercourse. The symptoms are high fever and fatigue. It can make you feel sick all the time. And small rashes appear on the skin.

# PARTICIPANT:

We call it allergies.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, it's like allergies. And the white part of our eyes turns yellow.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you seen anyone with such problems?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't but my wife got jaundiced once. She got better through traditional healing by incantations.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever heard about syphilis?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't heard.

# INTERVIEWER:

It is usually transmitted through physical contact. The symptoms are small sores on the lips, vagina, palm of the hands and bottom of the feet. There can also be a high fever. Have you ever seen such diseases as rashes around female genitals?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't heard of it. Once, I had a common cold and cough so I went for a check-up. When I had X-rays, they told me that I had some spots on my chest. The doctor gave me medicines and told me not to drink cold water but to drink only hot water. Otherwise, it won't be cured easily because cold water and food may affect the action of the medicines.

Once, I also had scabies on my hands and blisters on my skin. I don't know what that was. There was usually no pain but it was painful when it broke open. They were a lot in my hands and legs. It used to look decaying. They used to break open while taking bath. It used to look so gross so I went to the doctor and got medicines. The doctor gave me oral medicines and ointments. Then it got better. The doctor gave me Penicillin to put on it. What kind of disease could it be?

# INTERVIEWER:

The doctor may be able to tell you about this disease because he saw it. I can't say anything without seeing it. Such allergies can be caused by different reasons. Did you feel better now?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I do.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know how sexually transmitted diseases are transmitted?

# PARTICIPANT:

It may be transmitted while sitting and talking together. It can also spread through sex. It can also transmit while living and sleeping together. To prevent this disease, we should not have unprotected sex with anyone and should not have multiple relations. We should keep our distance from others. If someone has this disease, we should not sit or live with him. We should keep our distance from such person.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now let's talk about blood tests during pregnancy. Do you think blood tests during pregnancy are good?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think blood tests are very good because they can detect many problems. We can know if there is any deficiency by having blood tests and we can know the condition of the child.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think pregnant women usually agree to have blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think they do because it is a good thing. They can have information about their body and health. They can know if they are healthy or not. It is also good for their child. They can also know if the child is healthy or not. It is very good to do blood tests during pregnancy.

# INTERVIEWER:

Sometimes, pregnant women do not want to do the blood test. What do you think are the reasons behind this?

# PARTICIPANT:

They may have money problems and you need money sometimes to go to the hospital for a check-up.

# INTERVIEWER:

Could there be other reasons?

# PARTICIPANT:

They may don't feel that they have a problem because they look fine from the outside. That's why they don't want to do the blood test. They may think it is unnecessary. If there is no problem such as abdominal pain or tiredness, they may not feel the need to do tests.

# INTERVIEWER:

If they know that the test is for anaemia, will they do the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think they will.

# INTERVIEWER:

If they know that the test is for STIs and if we explain to them the importance of such tests during pregnancy, will they agree to do the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

Most of them may not agree.

# INTERVIEWER:

They won't agree?

# PARTICIPANT:

Most pregnant women do the check-ups like blood and urine tests, video x-rays and blood pressure. If any problem is seen during these tests, then they go for other tests. If there is only a headache then they will take medicines only [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Now I will tell you a short story. It is just an imaginary one. Don't take it personally. Suppose that your wife has rashes or wounds in her private parts. We already discussed it as a symptom of STD. She is very stressed due to this problem. She is suffering so much because of it. If she tells you that she has such a problem. What kind of suggestions would you give her because?

# PARTICIPANT:

First of all, she should be taken to the health post for a check-up. We should tell the problem to health workers. We should ask health workers about what should be done to cure it. I will tell them to do a check-up.

# INTERVIEWER:

And what about blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

When we tell our problem to the doctor, the doctor will tell us whether to do the blood test or not. The doctor will tell us what tests should be done because we don't have much knowledge.

# INTERVIEWER:

If the doctor said that your pregnant wife needs to do a blood test, would you send her to do the test?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I would.

# INTERVIEWER:

You said that you would send her for the test but would your wife agree to it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, my wife would agree to it. She agrees to whatever I ask her to do.

# INTERVIEWER:

You said that your wife would agree to it but other wives may not agree to do a blood test for STDs. What may be the reasons behind it?

# PARTICIPANT:

They might have problems while talking about it. They may feel embarrassed to talk about such a matter. I don't think they can talk about such a thing. Those who are aware of it won't have problems. They will go for the check-up.

# INTERVIEWER:

I told you to imagine that your wife has a problem with STDs. Problems can occur when you are not home. To whom your wife can share her problems?

# PARTICIPANT:

She can share it with the family. She can share it well with my mother and my brother. My father has hearing problems so she does not talk much with him.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does your wife have any friends around the neighbourhood with whom she can share her problems openly?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, she can. When my daughter was born, I was working in the field. Her delivery date had come. I could not go to the hospital with her at that time. The baby was also moving so my wife sent a friend from the neighbourhood to give me the message. Then I knew that it was the time of the child’s birth so I quickly took her to the health post. There was no problem. I took her to the health post. There was no need for an ambulance. I took her on the bike to the health post. And the child was born in the evening. There was no problem with the child. She gave birth in a normal condition.

# INTERVIEWER:

If your wife has some STD, would it be good to share it with family members or some other friends?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't think she would tell the neighbours but she could tell me. She shares everything with me. If I am not at home, she can take advice from others about what to do.

# INTERVIEWER:

When you go to the hospital, what kind of behaviour do the health workers show towards you?

# PARTICIPANT:

They are nice. They ask about what problem is there and how it happened. They talk nicely and ask properly.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do health workers sometimes misbehave with patients?

# PARTICIPANT:

When we go to government hospitals, they also behave well with us. They talk nicely.

# INTERVIEWER:

Your wife is pregnant, should the members of your family help your wife?

# PARTICIPANT:

They should help her. It is good to help in such a condition. The pregnant woman also feels happy because of it. The pregnant woman is satisfied that her relatives are supportive.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long do you have to wait for the report after a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

They will give the report within a maximum of 30 or 40 minutes.

# INTERVIEWER:

What is your general opinion about blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

In my opinion, blood tests are very important and necessary. I will tell her that she should do the blood test because blood tests are very important for the mother and the child during pregnancy. If they don't want to do it, then we can't force them. We can only tell what kind of problems can happen if they don't do the blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

You shared what you know with me. Do you see something that I might have forget to talk about?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't see anything. You have asked good questions and I learnt many things from this conversation.