**Interview details**

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| Participant ID | PWKAT02C |
| Municipality | Raniban |
| Occupation | Laboratory assistant at a college |
| Education (grade) | 12 |
| Type of household | Nuclear |
| Ethnicity | Khadka, Chhetri |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 0 |
| Gestation age in months | 9 |
| Start time | 11:30 |
| End time | 11:55 |
| Interviewer | Bibhu Thapaliya |
| Date | 07/03/2023 |
| Name of transcriber | Merina Dahal |
| Name of translator | Merina Dahal |

**Background**

This interview was conducted in a small café nearby hospital. The pregnant woman’s husband refused consent, so we carried on interview with her only.

**Interview**

# INTERVIEWER:

You said you live in Raniban, right?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, Raniban.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you do?

# PARTICIPANT:

I used to work but not anymore.

# INTERVIEWER:

What work did you do in the past?

# PARTICIPANT:

I used to work in the science laboratory in a college near my home.

# INTERVIEWER:

Until which grade did you study?

# PARTICIPANT:

Grade 12.

# INTERVIEWER:

Your caste is Khadka, which means Chhetri?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you live with your husband?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, just me and my husband.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is this your first child?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, it is your 10th month running, am I right?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think it is the 10th month, my due date was yesterday [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you remember how many times have you gone for antenatal check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

Many times.

# INTERVIEWER:

5-6 times?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think it's more than that because when I was three months pregnant, I had already come here for check-ups 5-6 times. So, it is more than that.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you taken blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know for what purpose is your blood tested?

# PARTICIPANT:

A whole-body check-up was done a few months ago, including a thyroid test. During my second trimester, a glucose test was done.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, you have checked your blood twice?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

In which month did you take your first blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have to see my papers and reports but it was a long time ago.

# INTERVIEWER:

Were you counselled about why was the blood test done?

# PARTICIPANT:

Initially, I was asked to have a pregnancy check-up, where I did everything. In the second trimester, my thyroid went up and I had to take medication. Now, I don't need to take any thyroid medication anymore.

# INTERVIEWER:

That's great. Now, I want to talk to you a bit about sexually transmitted diseases. Our study has shown that these diseases if transmitted from a mother to her baby have not been given importance because of which prevention programs for these issues are not that strong. Have you heard of anyone in your circle who might have had the disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I do not know anyone who has HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.

# INTERVIEWER:

This is a sensitive topic that people do not like to discuss much. But in your view, if a pregnant woman gets HIV or any other STDs, should she go to the hospital or not? What do you suggest?

# PARTICIPANT:

She should go because doing so will allow preventing the transmission from her to her child. So, she must go.

# INTERVIEWER:

Tests for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B come under government protocols but it is not tested everywhere and patients are not aware of it either. Moreover, counselling related to those blood tests is not given uniformly. Have you received counselling related to HIV during your pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, it's not. I have polycystic ovary syndrome, so I came here for a check-up. After that, from ultrasound to blood tests, everything was done. I don't remember much. Then I took medication regularly for three months. I took a month off and found out I was pregnant. I don't remember much.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you go to Prasuti griha for antenatal examinations and to Norivc for blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did everything in Norvic. I only came here three months ago.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why did you change?

# PARTICIPANT:

Because of monetary issues. It was too costly in Norvic. I came here to solve my polycystic ovary syndrome problems. I had no idea that this hospital was here before [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

How did you know about this hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

My sister-in-law suggested me this place. She told me to deliver my baby here because Norvic hospital is comparatively expensive.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, I delivered my baby in Norvic too, it is quite expensive.

# PARTICIPANT:

That's why I came here. I had no idea that this hospital was here [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they accept you as a patient despite you being seven months pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

I was scared they wouldn't but they did [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Does it mean there is a difference in the ticket price?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, in Norvic they charge Rs.850, while here they charge only Rs 25.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have any idea about incentives that are provided after completing ANC visits and delivery?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have no idea about that since it is my first child [laughs]. Someone told me that you get paid Rs.1000 after the baby is born and a pair of clothes. I haven't seen anyone that I know getting all these incentives. I will know after I give birth [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of other mothers receiving incentives after delivery?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have heard that they give you incentives if you have a normal delivery, but they do not provide you with incentives if you had a cesarian section.

# INTERVIEWER:

I didn't know that either.

# Participant:

I will know more about it once I deliver my baby [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

This is interesting because you have experience in both private as well as public hospitals. So, there's quite a difference in the cost too.

# PARTICIPANT:

Extremely! An ultrasound in the government costs around rs.600, whereas in Norvic it costs around Rs.1700-Rs.2000. Anomaly scan costs Rs 4000 but the same procedure in a public hospital costs half of the actual price [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you have any ultrasound appointments here in the government hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they charged me Rs 600.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you find any difference in the services provided by the private and government hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Since people come less to private hospitals, it was easy for us to go for blood tests or ultrasounds. But in government, we have to wait for 2 hours to take blood tests, and ultrasounds and another two hours to collect the reports. Besides that, everything else is the same.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have to wait for antenatal check-ups too?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long do you have to wait?

# PARTICIPANT:

Two hours. Not less not more [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you find any difference in how a doctor gives you time?

# PARTICIPANT:

In private, I had to meet two junior doctors before I meet Dr Achala Vaidhya. But in government, I do not have to go through that. Since it is about abdominal checks and listening to the baby's heartbeat, it is similar in both.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did she counsel you?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I wasn't aware that I was pregnant and was taking medicine for other issues. She gave me good counselling despite all the worries.

# INTERVIEWER:

In Norvic, did they give you a blood report as soon as possible?

# PARTICIPANT:

I was advised by the doctor that it's costly in Norvic so I went to a private laboratory in Baneshwor. They provided me with a report a day after the check-up but if you wanted, they would email you the electronic copies or deliver it to your home.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, is that laboratory cheaper than Norvic's laboratory?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, Norvic's laboratory is expensive in comparison to the one where I went.

# INTERVIEWER:

I think your husband is waiting for you so I will only ask you a few more questions. You mentioned that you had taken a blood test when you got pregnant.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I don't remember what tests were there but I did take a whole package for pregnancy.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know that diseases are diagnosed through blood tests during pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I do not know.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you ever ask about tests before giving your blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't. I didn't ask in the past but lately, I have started asking about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

You said it's been 4-5 years since you arrived in Kathmandu, right?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, how are the health facilities in Salyan?

# PARTICIPANT:

2-3 months back my sister delivered her baby and they have a misconception there that it's not good to do an ultrasound [laughs]. There's no facility for taking blood tests or "anomaly scan". Even in the hospital, there's no such facilities.

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone asks you about which doctor is the best and where should one go for a checkup, what suggestions would you give?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would suggest they go to the doctor that I have been consulting. Makes it easier for me to give them appropriate suggestions.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is there anything else that you want to ask?

# PARTICIPANT:

Nothing much but I am scared as I have heard that health professionals at the government hospital shout at you, and beds aren't that well managed. I haven't seen it so far that's why I am skeptical about the whole delivery experience in a government hospital [laughs]. I was told to get admitted today so I don't know what will happen [laughs]

# INTERVIEWER:

Are you staying in a cabin?

# PARTICIPANT:

I am not sure.

# INTERVIEWER:

I think while inducing labor you will be kept in the general ward then you can transfer to the cabin.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, but we might have to call the doctor separately if I stay in the cabin whereas in general doctors are available 24\*7.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, it depends how much privacy you need for yourself and your family.