**Interview details**

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| Participant ID | PWKAT06G |
| Municipality | Kathmandu |
| Occupation | Housewife |
| Education (grade) | 5 |
| Type of household | Nuclear |
| Ethnicity | Brahmin |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 2 |
| Gestation age in months | 6 |
| Interviewer | Bibhu Thapaliya |
| Date | 18/03/2023 |
| Name of translator | Merina Dahal |
| Name of transcriber | Merina Dahal |

**Interview**

# INTERVIEWER:

It is your second pregnancy. You had a miscarriage previously, right?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times have you done check-ups during this pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have done it three times.

# INTERVIEWER:

When did you go for the first check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

The first time, I went during the third month, the fifth month and the last time, I went during the sixth month.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you done blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have done blood and urine tests.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times did you do the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I did it once, the first time.

# INTERVIEWER:

What tests did they do on the blood sample? Do you have any idea?

# PARTICIPANT:

They took blood three times in three bottles. They also told me to do urine tests and they checked my blood pressure.

# INTERVIEWER:

What was in the report?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know how to read and write. I am not educated. The doctor looked at the report and said that it was good. During the video x-rays, they told me that the child is in an inverted position and that the heartbeat is low. The doctor gave me good advice. He said that the child is a bit weak so I should not carry heavy weights and travel by bus. He also told me to walk as much as possible. He explained it very well to me. During the next visit, the other doctor did not say anything. I asked him about the ultrasound report and it was good.

# INTERVIEWER:

Before doing the blood tests, did the doctor give you counselling on what tests are going to be done?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, he did not tell me anything. He just told me to come back three days after the blood test to get the report. That's it. I went after three days to get the report but they did not tell me anything about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

In room number 107, it is written Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, did you go there and have any kind of talk?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, nothing. I asked them whether I should go to ask about the report. Nobody told me anything about that so I did not go anywhere. I came home and they said that it is okay so I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long did the doctor take to do your check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

It took about 10 to 15 minutes for the video X-rays and 30 minutes for the ultrasound.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did the doctor lie you down and check your abdomen? Did he ask you about your condition and tell you to take iron tablets?

# PARTICIPANT:

They did not do this. They told me to take iron tablets. About lying down and checking the abdomen, when I went for the first check-up, they said that the child was too small so they would not know about it. They told me to do a video x-ray and I did it. During the next visit, they said that I needed to go for a video x-ray so I did it. When meeting the doctor, it is so crowded that we don't even get 5 to 10 minutes. We just get 1 to 2 minutes and they tell us about our condition very quickly.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long do you need to wait for your turn?

# PARTICIPANT:

We have to wait 1 to 2 hours. Our turn comes after so many people.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you think about their behaviour?

# PARTICIPANT:

It is okay so far.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did anyone suggest you come to Prasuti Griha in Thapathali or did you come by yourself?

# PARTICIPANT:

All the women in my neighbourhood, who already gave birth, said that it is good in Prasuti Griha. We came here by following their suggestions. I did not know about it. They said that it will be easy there, that's why we came.

# INTERVIEWER:

Would you give this advice to someone else?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. I will tell them to come here. It is good.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you feel that the doctor should give you more time?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I feel that.

# INTERVIEWER:

When you go there, don't you want to ask the doctor properly about everything?

# PARTICIPANT:

How can we ask there? There is so much crowd that patients enter the room for their turn before the previous one has completed the check-up. There is so much rush. We can't ask for anything and doctors don't have time to explain things. They tell us that all is good and then send us back home.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think doctors don’t have time because of the crowd?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. In private hospitals, we have time to ask for everything during the consultation. But here, it is really crowded, about 300 to 400 women. The doctor might also have pressure to do check-ups so they might do them quickly.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think your husband should come with you?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I think so. That time I wanted to ask the doctor if I could call my husband inside but there were 4 or 5 women inside so it was not appropriate while women were being checked. I went outside to tell him that it was not possible. I don't know whether the doctor would authorize it if I had asked.

# INTERVIEWER:

Will you deliver your child here?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. I will. I had all my check-ups here so far.

# INTERVIEWER:

And did the doctor tell you about the delivery as your child is in the inverted position?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, the child is in the inverted position but the doctor told me to not worry about it. It may move to the correct position and if it does not, they can operate. The doctor told me that many women have their children in such a position but they move to the correct position during the last month.

# INTERVIEWER:

As it is your first pregnancy, whom do you discuss your stress or questions with? To whom who is close to you do you share your problems?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't have anyone like that. There is only one friend who lives nearby. I tell her when I have problems. But I don't have anyone close to me. I think that whatever happens, we will manage. What else can I do?

# INTERVIEWER:

There are a lot of check-ups to do during pregnancy, do you feel like why they are doing all this? Some even have the fear that the ultrasound can have negative effects on the child.

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know that. I have done whatever the doctor told me to do. I can learn whether the condition of the child is good or not. I don’t feel like why they are doing all this because all these tests give us information about the condition of the child. If there is some problem, then we can know about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you ask what they check with blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

I asked a nurse. I have heard that they check the pressure, thyroid and other things from the blood. I could not ask the doctor why they took that much blood because it was crowded. The doctors are also under pressure so I don't like to ask them.

# INTERVIEWER:

Except for pressure, thyroid and sugar, there are sexually transmitted diseases, which can be transmitted through sexual intercourse, blood and even saliva and urine, if not managed properly. It can also be transmitted from mother to child. You might have heard of HIV.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

HIV AIDS. And have you heard of Syphilis? And then Hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have heard of it.

# INTERVIEWER:

According to the government protocol, these diseases should be tested in all pregnant women.

# PARTICIPANT:

Maybe.

# INTERVIEWER:

Your report must have come negative. That's why the doctor did not tell you anything about it.

# PARTICIPANT:

If it was positive, they would have given me medicines and told me about it. All my reports were good so they did not tell me anything.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think HIV and all other diseases should be tested?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. I want to do the tests to know what the condition is and what suggestions the doctor will give. I can be assured about how I am. I think it is better to do all tests available for our own good.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think the husband should attend the check-up too?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I think the husband should attend the check-ups too so both of us can ask questions.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever heard of anyone infected with HIV, syphilis or hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have heard of it from my neighbours. They said that someone has such a disease so we should not visit him, otherwise we would get infected too. They are used to saying that this and that happen. I have also seen some people dying in the village and people were used to saying that they died from such a disease. I don't know what happened exactly.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what were their symptoms?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have heard that the face turns dark and some get diarrhoea. When we were young, one of my sisters by relation had a very dark face, diarrhoea, fever and other symptoms. People were saying that her husband also died from this disease and she got infected.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do people have different attitudes towards such people?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they are seen differently.

# INTERVIEWER:

People are also afraid of transmission. They think that they may get the disease if they go near, touch or talk to the infected person. What was the situation? How was she treated?

# PARTICIPANT:

She was living with her mother-in-law and two daughters. Her husband already died. There was no discrimination in her family but the villagers might have discriminated. They used to say that we should not use her things, sit with her or sleep near her during menstruation. In the villages, women sleep in separate rooms during their periods with some female friends. People used to tell us not to sleep with her during periods. In her family, they could not discriminate as she had two small daughters and a mother-in-law but in the village, they used to say such things.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that they should not act like this?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I think so. As per our understanding, it transmits through blood. We were young at that time. We did not do discrimination. We used to sit together, talk and work together with our friends.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you seen any such behaviour shown by health workers towards the patients due to their disease condition?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not seen it. I don't know how the doctors treat them as I never went with an infected patient.

# INTERVIEWER:

If any pregnant woman gets such a disease, whom should she share it with?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think it would be easier to share it with the husband. I don't know with whom we can share it except the husband. If there is someone close to us like a friend, a sister or a parent, we can tell her. Otherwise, I don't think that we can share it with someone except our husband.

# INTERVIEWER:

How much did you pay for the blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, the first visit cost me 2500 rupees and the second and third ones cost me 1000 rupees each time. I don't know how much I will have to pay next time.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is it cheap or expensive?

# PARTICIPANT:

It is ok. We need to do it anyway for our health whether the cost is high or low. What can we do? We go to low price hospitals so it is low. If we go to a private hospital, we might have to pay more.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think these things should be free of cost?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I think so sometimes. We don't always have money when it is needed. However, it's not free of cost, so we have to do whatever is required. What can we do?

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think it would be better if you had to wait for a shorter time?

# PARTICIPANT:

If we go in the morning, then it is completed around 2 or 3 pm. If it could be done quicker, then it would be better. They send us from one room to another where we need to wait in a queue again. We don't know how long we need to wait there. In this way, it takes about 4 to 5 hours.

For the token, we go at 6 am in the morning. We need to wait for 50 to 60 people for our turn. If we go there after that, it reaches up to 400 to 500 patients and they send us back home and tell us to come back the next day.

# INTERVIEWER:

How do you go there?

# PARTICIPANT:

I and my husband come here walking.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does he wait outside?

# PARTICIPANT:

When the security allows it, my husband comes inside the building. He can't go inside the check-up room though but he is just outside. The first time, I did not know the place and my husband came with me. He was very supportive.

# INTERVIEWER:

Can the husband say that he wants to be with his wife during the check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

They scold very loudly. Once, a fight nearly broke out in the hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Please tell me a little about that experience.

# PARTICIPANT:

Last time, they sent me to the emergency to show my report but I did not know it was an emergency service. My husband was with me and two doctors came and started scolding him very rudely. He explained that he was with me because I do not know anything. They said that he was not supposed to be here and that we must know it. Everyone was very angry. I ask my husband to don’t answer and to wait for me outside. I waited for an hour and showed them my report.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is there only one chair inside the doctor's room?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. They don't even let any male enter the room. They can only wait for downstairs [outside the building]. After delivery too. Sometimes the wife has serious problems and wants to see her husband, but no, they don't care if we live or die once we get in. The husband has to stay outside. I feel so scared sometimes by seeing others that I might have to face the same during my delivery. I see so many women crying and screaming inside while their husbands are outside. I don't think they should do so. It's not just me so there is no benefit in saying anything. There are many women who have been facing the same situation and giving birth to their children.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you gone to any other hospital in between?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does anyone share their experience of some other hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

They tell us that it is good in other hospitals like Patan but we went there only. When I heard about the condition of my child, I also thought of going to some other hospital for check-ups but we did not go. Last time, they said that everything was okay so we did not visit any other hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you want to give any suggestions to the hospital? Do you feel that it would be better if they ask you about the services and blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. Sometimes, when we ask them about anything, they scold us so badly for not knowing it. Once, I asked them about where I can get the blood test reports from. They shouted at me so badly asking why I don't read myself and whether I have eyes or not. It was my first visit to the hospital so I did not know where it was written. So I felt very bad. Like that, they scold us if we ask them anything. Some are good but some of them are very aggressive. We can't answer back as they are in a higher position than us.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you feel that some have very good behaviour while some have bad behaviour?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, some of them are really nice too. Even when we do not ask them anything, they tell us where to go and ask us whether we have done the required tasks.

# INTERVIEWER:

There are many other pregnant women just like you visiting the hospital. Do you see some of them going inside easily for the check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, some are taken inside by the doctor without saying anything just by looking at their face. I don't know if the doctor already knows them. They are even conducted to where they need to go. They don't care about others who have been waiting there for 4 to 5 hours. If we ask about our turn, they scold us from inside. What can we do then?

# INTERVIEWER:

Does such a system cause difficulty in the check-up of pregnant women?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, a lot of difficulties. There are no proper chairs to sit and we can't stand properly for a long time. We need to wait in a queue for 3 to 4 hours. And then after waiting for that long, they don't even do the check-up properly and explain to us well. They just tell us that everything is good and ask us to leave. What can we say? We have to take the report and leave and the next person in the queue goes inside. We hope they will tell us properly about our condition and everything but they don't.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you want to ask me anything?

# PARTICIPANT:

No. I don't have anything in my mind now.