**Interview details**

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| Participant ID | HKAT04G |
| Municipality | Lalitpur Metropolitan City |
| Occupation | Salesman in vehicle store |
| Education (grade) | 8 |
| Type of household | Nuclear |
| Ethnicity | Brahmin |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 1 |
| Gestation age in months | 6 months |
| Interviewer | Obindra Bahadur Chand |
| Date | 18/03/2023 |
| Name of translator | Merina Dahal |
| Name of transcriber | Merina Dahal |

**Interview**

# INTERVIEWER:

As we talked earlier, we will discuss pregnancy which is a sensitive period requiring more care and concern. We will discuss the role of the husband in such a period and what is easy or difficult for the husband during the wife's pregnancy. Let's start with what help and support you have provided to your wife since she has been pregnant.

# PARTICIPANT:

I do works like bringing water, washing dishes and cleaning the room. She cooks and serves the food.

# INTERVIEWER:

Were you used to doing such work before she was pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I used to do it before her pregnancy and now too. Now that she is pregnant, I have focused more on helping with her work.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you do that? I mean where did you learn it from? Or is it due to something in the past?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I do it for love so nothing bad will happen.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you mean to prevent any problem or difficulty?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I do it so that there won't be any difficulty.

# INTERVIEWER:

Sometimes, we discuss our health with the family. What kind of talk do you have with each other since she is pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

There is no such thing [laughs]. No, we haven't talked anything about it. She does not say anything about what happens to her. I don't know anything about it. Once, she said that she was having problems so I took her for a check-up. It's not something to feel ashamed of.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does it mean that she does not tell you because you are always together or what could be the reason?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know anything about it [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Then, let's have a discussion about going to the hospital or the health post. When women get pregnant, most of them go to the hospital and do check-ups. What do you know about that and what did you do?

# PARTICIPANT:

What have we done? [asking his wife]

# INTERVIEWER:

You tell me, please.

# PARTICIPANT:

We have been going together for check-ups. They don't allow me to enter the hospital. That's it. We can't ask anything about her. Whatever we ask her, she just agrees to it. So I don't know anything about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Even if she does not tell you, do you know that women should do regular check-ups during pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

I wish we could do regular check-ups. I wish that we could have a proper check-up at the hospital. They should welcome both the husband and his wife. They should tell me about the problems of my wife and that I should not worry. That’s all I wish.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you mean by proper check-up? What do you want to be included in it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Firstly, when we go to the hospital, I want them to do a urine check-up. Also, they should give us a good report of the blood test and the video x-rays. They should give us a good report and explain it to us as we don't know how to interpret video x-rays.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think they should tell the husband of the pregnant woman about the reports of the urine test and all other tests performed so people can clearly understand them?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I think so.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does it mean that they did not tell you in a clear way at the hospital or health post?

# PARTICIPANT:

They did not tell me anything.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think they do such a thing?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know. It may be because the doctor does not have time or maybe other reasons. I can't understand why.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of or seen any pregnant woman in your village going to the hospital alone?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not.

# INTERVIEWER:

As you said that the health workers don't give you enough time and don't explain everything to you clearly, what do you think about the behaviour the health workers such as doctors and nurses show towards you?

# PARTICIPANT:

Some doctors are good. For example, we visited the hospital once and I was not allowed to go inside and ask about her reports. A doctor told us that we won't know if we ask there but we should go to the emergency to ask about it. So, some of the doctors are good.

# INTERVIEWER:

Are you saying that those doctors who explain things to you are good doctors?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, good doctors are those who make us understand things and explain them nicely.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know whether pregnant women have to pay money for check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

In our society, people do not openly talk about pregnancy and sex so pregnant women might feel lazy or hesitate to go to the hospital or health post for check-ups. Have you heard or experienced of any such thing?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not. They usually go for check-ups.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they usually go?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone does it, then what do you think would be the reason behind it?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

It's ok, we don't know everything. Now, about check-ups during pregnancy...

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

During pregnancy, should check-ups be done and why?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know about such matters.

# INTERVIEWER:

It does not matter if you don't know. We don't know everything because they don’t let husbands accompany pregnant women in Nepal during check-ups.

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they do not let us.

# INTERVIEWER:

Also, the wives may not share everything with the husbands hoping that they would see themselves if any problem occurs. That's why you may not know everything. So don't feel awkward. And this is not about being right or wrong, true or false. It is about saying what you know and if you don't know something, you can say that you don't know. As we talked earlier about blood tests, do you know what tests are done?

# PARTICIPANT:

Maybe, I have heard of AIDS. I have heard that HIV AIDS can be through the blood. That's why blood tests are done so that it would be good.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of anything else?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not.

# INTERVIEWER:

In Nepal, 3 or 4 things are tested during pregnancy. The first one HIV AIDS, as you said. Then, it is the deficiency of iron in the blood of pregnant women, which is called *Rakta alpata* (anaemia) in Nepali. And when they give tablets to you, they call them iron tablets, right?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. They call them iron tablets.

# INTERVIEWER:

Syphilis and hepatitis B should be tested during pregnancy. Has the doctor told you or have you ever had a conversation with your wife about that?

# PARTICIPANT:

There has not been anything like that. I think it would be good to do a check-up for it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think it would be good?

# PARTICIPANT:

We can know about her body and what condition she has.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know anything about the deficiency of iron in the blood during pregnancy and what symptoms it can show?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't know anything about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

You don't know. And as you were saying about HIV AIDS earlier, what do you know about it?

# PARTICIPANT:

I know about HIV AIDS. If we sit together, more specifically sleep together, then...

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, sleep together rather than sit together.

# PARTICIPANT:

It can be transmitted by sleeping together. I know that much. I don't know anything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you known or heard about anyone in your village or neighbourhood with HIV infection?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not heard here. But in foreign countries, I had known. There was a person with AIDS.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what symptoms are seen in infected people?

# PARTICIPANT:

A friend of mine had this infection. His face had turned dark and then, he became very serious.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of serious?

# PARTICIPANT:

I mean he could not even stand up and walk.

# INTERVIEWER:

Oh, weakness?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, he had weakness and the boss from the company locked him in a room after testing and confirming that he had AIDS. And then, he sent him back to Nepal. I don't know much.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what type of treatment patients with HIV receive?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, hepatitis. I know about injection (vaccine).

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of anything about it, other than the injection?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of syphilis, also called *Viringi* in Nepali?

# PARTICIPANT:

It is the one in which the hand does not move [His wife: No, it's not that.] No, it is the one.

# INTERVIEWER:

Syphilis is also a kind of STD. It has different kinds of symptoms. [His wife: Like HIV.]

# PARTICIPANT:

A person near my house has his hands... [His wife: No, it's not that.] They say that he has *Viringi.* I have heard it. His fingers are folded completely.

# INTERVIEWER:

Then, syphilis has also what you said about the hands but with sores or rashes around the genitals. Have you heard anything about it?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you know about STDs?

# PARTICIPANT:

[His wife: don’t look at me!] I don't know [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

It's ok if you don't know. If there is an opportunity to test for 3 or 4 diseases such as syphilis, hepatitis B, HIV and anaemia with only one blood sample and results are available in about 30 minutes, should we do such a test?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, we should do the tests. It is good to have blood tests.

# INTERVIEWER:

What reason do you think is good for the health of the mother and the child?

# PARTICIPANT:

It will be good for the mother and the child. If one gets it, then it won't be transmitted to others. We can know that we have such a disease. That's it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is there anything I have left to ask or you want to say?

# PARTICIPANT:

No. Here we have your contact number I will call you if needed.