**Interview details**

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| --- | --- |
| Participant ID | PWKAP01 |
| Municipality | Kapilvastu |
| Occupation | Housewife |
| Education (grade) | 7 |
| Type of household | Joint |
| Ethnicity | Dalit |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 0 |
| Gestation age in months | 9 months and 3 weeks |
| Start time | 10:45 |
| End time | 11:51 |
| Interviewer | Biddya Chaudhary |
| Date | 24 January 2023 |
| Name of transcriber | Anushka Thapa |
| Name of translator | Anushka Thapa |

**Background**

The pregnant woman was interviewed in the same household as her mother-in-law, but the places of interviews were different. The pregnant woman was interviewed on the terrace of the house, where none of the family members joined.

# INTERVIEWER:

What is your job?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t work.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you stay at home?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I stay at home. But I can’t do a lot of things, especially in this condition.

# INTERVIEWER:

Till which grade did you study?

# PARTICIPANT:

Till grade 7.

# INTERVIEWER:

What is your caste?

# PARTICIPANT:

Sunar, we belong to the Dalit category.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many people are living here?

# PARTICIPANT:

My mother-in-law, my father-in-law, my brother-in-law, my sister-in-law and me.

# INTERVIEWER:

You all live together in this house?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. Two sons of the family work outside Kapilvastu. The other family members live here.

# INTERVIEWER:

For how long have you been pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

My due date is passed. It was about 2 weeks ago.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where do you go for your check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

I go to Taulihawa hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you had ultrasound scans?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I had one yesterday. I usually go for ultrasounds when they call me. I've never missed an appointment. I went yesterday because I have pain in my back. My in-laws took me for the consultation. The health workers asked me to come back in 5 days.

# INTERVIEWER:

With whom did you go to this appointment?

# PARTICIPANT:

With my mother-in-law and my brother-in-law. My husband arrived last night, so he couldn't come with me.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is it your first pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it is.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever had a miscarriage or lost a child?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I didn't. I got pregnant immediately after I got married. I got married to Baishakh and got pregnant immediately.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many antenatal checks have you done?

# PARTICIPANT:

Almost seven until now.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times have you been to the public hospital for checks?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know. It's all written on the card they gave me. I have been going to ANC visits every month since the 6th month of my pregnancy I have also had two injections of vaccine at these visits.

# INTERVIEWER:

In public hospitals, do you do blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I do. I just did one yesterday.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of blood tests have you done?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know. They told me they would do blood and urine tests and that is it.

# INTERVIEWER:

But do you know what they are looking for in the samples?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yesterday they told me that my urine test was normal but they did not say anything about the blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, they didn't tell you the purpose of the blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they took blood and urine samples and I had an ultrasound. That's it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you understand what sexually transmitted diseases mean?

# PARTICIPANT:

No?

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know any diseases that can be transmitted through sexual contact?

# PARTICIPANT:

[Silent].

# INTERVIEWER:

Have the health workers told you anything about the diseases that can be transmitted through sexual contact and the blood tests that can detect these diseases?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know. They did not tell me anything.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did no one at the hospital give you any information?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they haven't told me anything so far. Nothing has happened to me since I got pregnant. I don't know if I was careless or if I didn't care. I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

How often have you had your blood tested?

# PARTICIPANT:

I went to the ANC check-ups seven times and had blood tests almost seven times too.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where did you get these blood tests done?

# PARTICIPANT:

I went twice to private health facilities. Then I went to public hospitals covered by health insurance. Yesterday was the only time I had to pay for a visit. In general, it is fully covered by insurance.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have to pay for tests when you go for checks or is it free?

# PARTICIPANT:

If it is covered by insurance, we don't have to pay, but if we go to private hospitals or sometimes to public hospitals, we have to pay.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now I will tell you a story. Suppose you have a close friend named Kalpana. She is about your age and lives in the same neighbourhood. Today you are home alone and she comes to have tea with you. Kalpana is also pregnant and she has received information about antenatal checks on the radio. She has come to you for advice. She never goes to the doctor and she came to you immediately after hearing the information on the radio. She wants to know everything about antenatal checks. What would you tell her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her what I know and what I have felt so far.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say for example?

# PARTICIPANT:

What would I tell her? I would tell her to do blood tests, urine tests and ultrasounds. I would tell her this.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she asks you if she has to do any checks and how this is done? How would you answer?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her that she should go for check-ups because it's for her health.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say if she asks you if she will have to pay anything?

# PARTICIPANT:

In some places, she will have to pay and in others, they will not. It depends on where you go.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she has not yet decided where to go for the consultation, what would you suggest?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her to go to Taulihawa hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Anywhere else?

# PARTICIPANT:

There’s no other place here.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she asks you how much it will cost and how much money she should take with her, what would you suggest?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would recommend that she brings two or three thousand.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is it the cost for one visit?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, blood and urine tests and ultrasound scans will be covered.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have blood and urine tests and ultrasound scans at every visit?

# PARTICIPANT:

I go every time they call me. My family is understanding, they don't object. They understand the situation.

# INTERVIEWER:

Let's say she asks you to describe everything that happens from start to finish when you go to an antenatal examination. What would you say?

# PARTICIPANT:

I went with a ticket and then they asked me to give a blood and urine sample. Then I had an ultrasound. That was all.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they perform abdominal exams during antenatal exams?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they do that.

# INTERVIEWER:

And what else?

# PARTICIPANT:

They don’t do anything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they listen to the baby’s heartbeat?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they do.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they examine your abdomen only when you feel pain?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they do it every time. The nurse also informs me about everything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

What about weight?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they measure weight too.

# INTERVIEWER:

How often do you have to go for check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

They have asked me to come back in four days. At that time I will have to be admitted to hospital as my baby is very big and I may have to have a caesarean section.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you feel anxious when you were told about the operation?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I am fine.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you been told that you might have a caesarean section because the baby is too big?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they said that my baby weighed 3.5 kilos already and that it could reach 4 or 4.5 kilos after two weeks. So they asked me to come back in four days to induce labour and only if that fails, they will operate on me.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they prescribe you any particular medication after the check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

If it is needed, then they do.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they prescribe medicines that you have to take daily?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, iron and calcium.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you take these medicines regularly?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I do. I have to buy calcium but I am provided with iron tablets.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is the hospital crowded when you go for a consultation?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, but we have no choice but to wait because the reports take a long time to arrive.

# INTERVIEWER:

At which time do you usually leave home when you have to go there?

# PARTICIPANT:

I usually leave at 8 am if I have to go to the hospital and 10 am if I have to go to the private clinic.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you also go to private hospitals for consultations?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

What is the environment like when you go to private hospitals?

# PARTICIPANT:

Private ones are usually better.

# INTERVIEWER:

How is it better?

# PARTICIPANT:

In public hospitals, you are not highly regarded. It doesn't matter who comes and who doesn't come. In private hospitals it's different, they respect you more.

# INTERVIEWER:

In private hospitals, are you informed about the blood tests performed?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know, but I went to the private hospital for my first ANC and they took blood samples to do all the tests. After that, I was not tested in private hospitals. But in public hospitals, I was tested many times.

# INTERVIEWER:

If your friend asks you whether she should go to hospital alone or accompanied, what would you suggest?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would suggest she visits with her family.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why so?

# PARTICIPANT:

The family will give you unconditional support in good times and bad.

# INTERVIEWER:

What does unconditional support mean?

# PARTICIPANT:

Provide support when you cannot get up immediately or collect reports for example.

# INTERVIEWER:

When you visit health facilities, how do they behave towards you?

# PARTICIPANT:

If I have any issues then they ask otherwise, they don’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Some health workers may be rude or unresponsive. Have you ever experienced such problems?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is there any health post nearby?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, there is the Gobri health post.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you visit it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I went today.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go for a consultation?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I go to Gobri from time to time, especially if I have difficulties. I usually go twice a month.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where did you make your pregnancy visit card?

# PARTICIPANT:

The same place where I went for my vaccination.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times did you go to Gobri health post?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have to check my card because I have visited Gopri so many times that I can't remember. All I can say is that I have never missed an appointment.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they tell you about the blood tests at the health posts or not?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they did.

# PARTICIPANT:

They informed me about dengue fever. Recently, they informed me about HIV testing. But I didn't agree to do it. It is normally done at the beginning of the pregnancy, so I didn't agree to do it then. And also because I have a lack of blood and I am very weak.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know about HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you didn't agree to give blood for an HIV test, did you?

# PARTICIPANT:

If I was in the first stage of pregnancy, I would have agreed to do it. But as I am in the last stage of pregnancy, I did not agree to do it.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you said that HIV can be tested by blood? What other diseases do you think can be tested by blood?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know. Before I got pregnant, I had no idea about all the blood and urine tests. I found out after I got married.

# INTERVIEWER:

Even if you had no idea about the blood and urine tests before your pregnancy, did the health workers inform you of the results?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they tell you whether there are problems or not.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long did you have to wait for the results of a blood test in public hospitals?

# PARTICIPANT:

If I have an appointment at 10am, the results will be available by 2pm.

# INTERVIEWER:

So what do you do until 2pm?

# PARTICIPANT:

It takes time to do an ultrasound, so I wait for my turn to come and I also wait for the results.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you suggest to your friend Sarita when she tells you that there is a lot of waiting time?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her to go even if it's crowded, because it's good for the health of the mother and the baby.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say to her if she is still reluctant to go?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her to do what she wants. I can't force her.

# INTERVIEWER:

How will you convince her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would not say anything to someone who is not ready to understand for herself.

# INTERVIEWER:

Suppose Sarita is afraid to go for antenatal check-ups. What are the possible reasons why she is afraid?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know.

# INTERVIEWER:

One reason could be monetary issues, what else?

# PARTICIPANT:

Maybe blood and urine tests and might be scared of the possible expense for everything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does the Gobri health post have a laboratory for blood and urine testing?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it has.

# INTERVIEWER:

Were these facilities available when you became pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I learned about it 6 or 7 months ago.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you didn't know at the beginning of your pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

How did you know that you had to have blood and urine tests at the beginning?

# PARTICIPANT:

They informed me there.

# INTERVIEWER:

Who?

# PARTICIPANT:

The nurse. She told me to go and do a blood test for dengue. I went and did a blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you think are the reasons why people are afraid to have blood and urine tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know.

# INTERVIEWER:

If you tell Sarita about HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis, will she agree to a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

She might go.

# INTERVIEWER:

Could she go? What might be the reasons why she might go?

# PARTICIPANT:

There might be some reasons.

# INTERVIEWER:

In your opinion, what could be these reasons?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know.

# INTERVIEWER:

If you talk to Sarita about sexually transmitted diseases, will she agree to a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know. Maybe she will.

# INTERVIEWER:

If the nurse recommends that you take a test for sexually transmitted diseases, would you agree to take the test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would do my best to do the blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now let's talk about the health information you receive from health facilities. How did you know that you had to be examined during your pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

My best support during my pregnancy was my mother-in-law.

# INTERVIEWER:

How did you know you were pregnant?

# Participant:

I went to my sister-in-law and took a urine test which told me I was pregnant.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you do the test at home?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, my sister-in-law bought me a test kit and I did a self-test at home. This is the first child in our household. Both brothers are married and my sister-in-law has no children, and I got pregnant first.

# INTERVIEWER:

Who did you first tell about your pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

I told my sister-in-law first, then she shared it with everyone else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Didn't you share the news with others?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why not?

# PARTICIPANT:

Because I was feeling shy [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Did your sister-in-law give you advice on antenatal examinations and other information?

# PARTICIPANT:

I started vomiting a lot. When I got pregnant, I threw up for 15-16 days without interruption. Since then, I have been going for regular check-ups.

# INTERVIEWER:

Vomiting when you were sick?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have been vomiting since I was pregnant and for the first 6 months. I was on medication and it was extremely difficult to eat.

# INTERVIEWER:

Could you eat rice?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, even water I could not.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did you do in such a situation?

# PARTICIPANT:

I could not eat anything. My family even bought me all kinds of food and it was wasted.

# INTERVIEWER:

With whom did you first go for check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

I went with my father-in-law and mother-in-law.

# INTERVIEWER:

What stage of pregnancy were you in when you had your first check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

Two months pregnant. After that, I went to the hospital for a check-up.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did your mother-in-law tell you about the type of check-ups carried out?

# PARTICIPANT:

She knew everything. I found out I was pregnant through a urine test and was asked to have blood tests. I went to a private clinic at first and had an HIV test and an ultrasound.

# INTERVIEWER:

How did your family support you in such a situation?

# PARTICIPANT:

They were very supportive.

# INTERVIEWER:

What sort of support did they provide?

# PARTICIPANT:

From diet to housework. They have supported me in every way possible.

# INTERVIEWER:

Since your husband was not present, who told him that you were pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

My mother-in-law informed him that he was going to be a father.

# INTERVIEWER:

After that, he called you and asked you?

# PARTICIPANT:

He was very happy [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Has he ever asked you about your check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

He told me to go for check-ups with my mother-in-law and suggested that I also go for regular consultations.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did it suggest to you what food to eat?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, he used to tell me about nutritious food.

# INTERVIEWER:

When your husband is not around much, do you go with your sister-in-law and mother-in-law for check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How do you get to your consultations?

# PARTICIPANT:

By car. If we make a call, they come and pick us up at our home. So it's not that difficult.

# INTERVIEWER:

If you have difficulties, e.g. hand and leg pain, or abdominal pain, who do you share it with?

# PARTICIPANT:

I share it first with my mother-in-law.

# INTERVIEWER:

What then are your mother-in-law's suggestions?

# PARTICIPANT:

She is taking me to the hospital as soon as possible.

# INTERVIEWER:

So if you have pain, she takes you to the hospital as soon as possible?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, she won't wait at all and will take me to the hospital as soon as possible.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of check-ups do you think a pregnant woman should do during her pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

When I went for a check-up, a nurse gave me information about HIV and other abnormalities that can be detected in the blood. That's all I know.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you done all these tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, at the beginning of the first months I did all these tests.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that other tests are carried out? Do you have any idea?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know. I didn't know about the blood and urine tests until after I got pregnant.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you never had your blood and urine checked before? When you had a fever for example?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you did all this only after you were married and pregnant? How did you feel?

# PARTICIPANT:

I felt so strange. I felt so many changes in me, especially compared to my old self.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now let's talk about the lack of blood during pregnancy. Have you ever heard of it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have heard of it but I don't have a clear vision of what it means.

# INTERVIEWER:

According to you, what are the symptoms of a lack of blood?

# PARTICIPANT:

The body becomes yellowish.

# INTERVIEWER:

Anything else?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, that's it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Dizziness?

# PARTICIPANT:

I have heard that dizziness occurs when blood pressure is low. So I wonder if it's because of a lack of blood or because of low blood pressure.

# INTERVIEWER:

What happens to your body when there is a lack of blood?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

You said that you did not agree to be tested for HIV because you lacked blood in your body. What kind of problems have you experienced because of the lack of blood in your body?

# PARTICIPANT:

I had no problem because they informed me on my first visit. They suggested I eat pomegranates.

# INTERVIEWER:

What were your symptoms?

# PARTICIPANT:

Vomiting, dizziness and I was also jaundiced because of the lack of blood but now I am fine.

# INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned that it was suggested that you eat pomegranates to prevent a lack of blood. What else can you do?

# PARTICIPANT:

Eat fruit, drink water and eat a nutritious diet.

# INTERVIEWER:

What sort of nutritious diet?

# PARTICIPANT:

They told me to eat a nutritious diet. I don't know anything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

What nutritious diet did you eat?

# PARTICIPANT:

I ate everything.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that a lack of blood in pregnant women affects the child?

# PARTICIPANT:

It may affect. Miscarriage and all may happen.

# INTERVIEWER:

Let’s talk a bit about HIV. You have heard about HIV, right?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, but I don't have a clear idea of the disease and its transmission.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever meet a person infected with HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know how HIV is transmitted?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what happens when someone gets infected with HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

HIV is transmitted by viruses and attacks our immune system. The immune system is responsible for fighting diseases, but this virus weakens it. In the initial phase of 2 to 6 weeks, no symptoms are visible. Then minor symptoms are visible for a week or less. And for many years, symptoms do not appear. The virus mainly weakens our immune system, reducing our ability to fight disease. If an HIV-infected husband has sex with his wife without using protective measures such as a condom, the virus is transmitted. Similarly, blood transfusion from an HIV-infected person to another person also transmits the disease. It is mainly transmitted through blood contact. Do you know what the symptoms of HIV are?

# PARTICIPANT:

There is a wide range of visible symptoms, and there's no medicine available.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think there is no medication available for HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know. Is there medicine for HIV?

# INTERVIEWER:

Are you asking me? [Laughs]. Do you think we should be on treatment if we are infected with HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, we should.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that HIV can be transmitted from a pregnant mother to her child?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

If an HIV-infected mother breastfeeds her child, will the virus be transmitted to her child?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

An HIV-infected mother who is breastfeeding her child, who is not on HIV treatment and who has not gone for check-ups, can transmit HIV to her child.

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone came to you with questions about HIV, what would you say?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would say that it can be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her child through breast milk. Nobody here would ask those questions [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think HIV is curable?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know if there is medication for HIV or not but I think it can be cured.

# INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned earlier that you were tested for HIV...

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I was tested at the beginning of my pregnancy. Getting tested again doesn't make sense, so I didn't agree to be tested again.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they give you the report of the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they did and I still have it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where did you do the HIV test for the first time?

# PARTICIPANT:

I did it in a private hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

And where did they ask you to repeat it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Taulihawa hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you take the report of your first HIV test with you when you went to Taulihawa for the consultation?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I didn't.

# INTERVIEWER:

And have you informed them that you have already been tested for HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I did tell them that I have been tested for HIV before.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did they say after you informed them?

# PARTICIPANT:

They told me I could go home.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that an HIV-positive person should inform their family members of their status or not?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell them that it happened.

# INTERVIEWER:

No, not you, but if someone else had HIV, who should they share their problems with?

# PARTICIPANT:

Me? I would tell my husband.

# INTERVIEWER:

What about your in-laws?

# PARTICIPANT:

I wouldn't tell them.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why?

# PARTICIPANT:

Shyness [laughs]. Also, they don't like us to interfere in other people's business and their problems.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is there any other reason why you would share your problems with your husband, but not with your parent-in-laws?

# PARTICIPANT:

No other reason. I'm shy and they don't like it when we talk about other people's problems or their personal affairs.

# INTERVIEWER:

How would your in-laws behave if they learned that their daughter-in-law had such a disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

They would not behave disrespectfully but would opt for treatment.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now, let’s talk a bit about hepatitis B. Have you ever heard of hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

It is a kind of disease that affects the liver and is transmitted through blood and sperm.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you understand what the word "sperm" means?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

It is a kind of substance that is released by men during sexual contact. Do you understand?

# PARTICIPANT:

Ok.

# INTERVIEWER:

People with hepatitis B have a range of symptoms, such as high fever, fatigue, shortness of breath, inability to work, pain in the upper stomach, feeling unwell all the time, lesions on the surface of the skin, itching, yellowish discolouration of the whites of the eyes. This is called hepatitis B. Do you understand?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever met someone who has contracted hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, this is the first time I've heard of this disease.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever seen a person with symptoms such as a yellowish colour, blisters on the skin or pain in the upper stomach?

# PARTICIPANT:

No. I know that yellow eyes and yellowish discolouration of the skin all over the body are called jaundice, but I have never heard of this particular disease.

# INTERVIEWER:

It's okay if you don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think a child could get hepatitis B if the pregnant mother has it?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

What should be done to avoid transmitting hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

Take medicine.

# INTERVIEWER:

Let’s talk no about syphilis. Have you ever heard about syphilis?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Syphilis is a disease similar to HIV and hepatitis B, transmitted through sexual contact. Do you understand the term "sexual contact"?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

In this disease, small blisters appear near the mouth of the sexual organs and spread to other parts of the body such as the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, etc. These are the symptoms of syphilis. Syphilis is accompanied by flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, swollen glands, etc. Have you ever seen anyone who might have had the symptoms I mentioned?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you suggest if someone comes to you and asks where to go for treatment?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell them to go to the health post.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think that someone who gets this disease would discuss it with their husband or in-laws?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How would they discuss this with their families?

# PARTICIPANT:

If it happened to me, I would ask them for help to get the treatment and everything.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you know about sexually transmitted diseases?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know anything [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

What diseases are transmitted through sexual contact? Could you give us your views on this?

# PARTICIPANT:

One is HIV. I forgot the name of the other diseases.

# INTERVIEWER:

Syphilis?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, and another one.

# INTERVIEWER:

Hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

What can we do to avoid transmitting sexually transmitted diseases?

# PARTICIPANT:

Use medicines.

# INTERVIEWER:

Anything else?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

What are the possible advantages and disadvantages of blood tests for the child?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

For example, a blood test helps us to identify diseases, what can we do after identifying the diseases, can you add something to it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Early identification of the disease helps us to protect the mother as well as the child.

# INTERVIEWER:

Suppose your friend has blisters all over her sexual organ. She has some symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases and is worried about her condition. She has come to you with her problems. What suggestions would you give her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would suggest that he goes for a check-up.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where do you suggest she goes for a check-up? For the cost and everything else too.

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell him that it would cost him money and suggest that he go to Taulihawa hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

What about the Gobri health post?

# PARTICIPANT:

There aren’t many facilities in Gobri.

# INTERVIEWER:

But you mentioned that there are blood test facilities in Gobri.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, but it does not cover all major diseases because it is not a large hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think Sarita would not agree to an antenatal examination?

# PARTICIPANT:

Maybe because of shyness or maybe because of financial problems.

# INTERVIEWER:

How would you help her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would try to help him by borrowing money. I would tell him to go for a check-up as it is beneficial for his health.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say to her if she felt shy because of her symptoms?

# PARTICIPANT:

You should not feel shy in this situation. It will be difficult later on if you are not able to do something about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Sarita goes to the hospital but is worried about the way the doctor sees her. What could be the reason?

# PARTICIPANT:

Because of her condition.

# INTERVIEWER:

Anything else?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would the doctor say after learning that Sarita has contracted a sexually transmitted disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

The doctor will talk to her about his condition and ask her to treat it with medication.

# INTERVIEWER:

How do you think they will act?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think they would behave well.

# INTERVIEWER:

Would they treat her like someone who came in with a minor illness or would they treat her differently?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think they would treat her differently.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think so?

# PARTICIPANT:

There's a difference between someone with a minor illness and Sarita's disease.

# INTERVIEWER:

What sort of difference?

# PARTICIPANT:

Maybe a difference in pain.

# INTERVIEWER:

If Sarita comes to you and asks you if she should go to the doctor to see my condition. What suggestions would you give her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her that if she is shy, I can accompany her and talk to the doctor.

# INTERVIEWER:

I If she is shy, would you tell her family about her disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would go and talk to his family on her behalf.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of doctor would you feel comfortable sharing problems related to sexually transmitted diseases with?

# PARTICIPANT:

Someone who would be understanding, and who would not discriminate against patients.

# INTERVIEWER:

Would it be better for the doctor to be a man or a woman?

# PARTICIPANT:

If possible, it should be a woman. If it is a man, it would be difficult for the women to talk about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you do if it was a male doctor rather than a female?

# PARTICIPANT:

We have to tell them anyway due to lack of option.

# INTERVIEWER:

You would share your problems with a male or female doctor, but you would prefer to have a female doctor?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

If Sarita comes to you and says that I have not shared my health problem with my friends or family, what would you say?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her to discuss any health issues with her family for the sake of her health.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think she should tell her husband?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Anyone else?

# PARTICIPANT:

Mother-in-law or sister-in-law, but not the father-in-law.

# INTERVIEWER:

Let's assume that Sarita has already contracted HIV and has told you about her problem. Now would you suggest that she take her husband for a blood test or not?

# PARTICIPANT:

I can't tell her to take her husband for a check-up, but I would suggest that she share her problems with her mother-in-law, sister-in-law, etc.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think it would be appropriate for her in-laws to be tested?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, maybe. To know whether they are infected or not.