**Interview details**

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| --- | --- |
| Participant ID | PWKAP05G |
| Municipality | Maya Devi |
| Occupation | Housewife |
| Education (grade) | 7 |
| Type of household | Joint |
| Ethnicity | Baniya |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 3 |
| Gestation age in months | 5 |
| Interviewer | Nisha Tharu |
| Date | 28/02/2023 |

**Interview**

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever been to school?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Up to which grade have you studied?

# PARTICIPANT:

Up to class 7.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many members are there in your family?

# PARTICIPANT:

Five members: Baba [papa], Mummy, me, my brother-in-law, and my husband.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where is your husband?

# PARTICIPANT:

At home.

# INTERVIEWER:

You have said that you are pregnant, how did you know that you were pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

I checked it at home.

# INTERVIEWER:

You mean you bought a kit and checked it at home?

# PARTICIPANT:

My mother-in-law bought it and I took the test at home.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go to the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I did.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many months pregnant are you?

# PARTICIPANT:

I am five months pregnant.

# INTERVIEWER:

After taking a urine test, how often have you visited the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

I went to the hospital twice, and I got shots twice while I went there.

# INTERVIEWER:

What suggestion did you receive from everyone when you went to the hospital for a check-up?

# PARTICIPANT:

I didn’t go to the hospital because I had pain. My mother-in-law went on my behalf with my reports and papers.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, you didn’t go?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, my mother-in-law went on my behalf.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you take any blood tests when you went for your antenatal check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did not.

# INTERVIEWER:

Besides the hospital did you go anywhere else for blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is this your first child?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it is my first child.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you had any miscarriages before?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I did.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times?

# PARTICIPANT:

Three times.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know how it happened?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. I miscarried when I was three months pregnant, two and one and a half months.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you work too hard and it might have caused the miscarriages?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I didn’t work too much. I was scared.

# INTERVIEWER:

Were you scared?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I was.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you mean you miscarried because you were scared?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, also I had other issues.

# INTERVIEWER:

What issues?

# PARTICIPANT:

Someone did black magic on me. Otherwise, I would have big children by now [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

What is your work?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t work except for doing household work.

# INTERVIEWER:

I will tell you a story and you will tell me what you think about it. Suppose you have a close friend. Her name is Sarita and she is of your age. You are really close friends. You eat together, sit together, sleep together and share all your secrets. She comes to your house for tea and some conversations. And there is no one in your house. You are alone. Your in-laws are busy with their own work. So they are not with you at the time. She is four months pregnant, just like you. She heard on the radio that it is necessary to have pregnancy check-ups but she could not hear more. She comes to you to get advice. What would you tell her when she comes to you and ask you about antenatal checkups?

# PARTICIPANT:

What would I say? [laughs]. I would tell her that it is important to go for check-ups.

# INTERVIEWER:

With whom would you recommend her to go?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would advise her to take family members with her for consultation. One should go for a checkup.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she asks you what they do during antenatal checkups, what would you say?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would say that an ultrasound should be done, other than that I do not know anything [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

What did you do during antenatal checkups, while visiting the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

I was told to do an x-ray due to injury and an “ultrasound” after that.

# INTERVIEWER:

When did you get the injury?

# PARTICIPANT:

It will be one month this coming Wednesday.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go to the hospital for a checkup before that?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Didn’t you go for an antenatal checkup before that?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did not go before that because I was said to go for a checkup only after I was injured to see whether it affected the baby or not. I just did an ultrasound and came back.

# INTERVIEWER:

Nothing else? Didn’t you check anything else?

# PARTICIPANT:

No. I would have gone to the hospital for a checkup if I wasn’t injured. Because of my injury, I didn’t go for any antenatal checkups.

# INTERVIEWER:

Even if you didn’t go, have you ever heard from anyone else about checkups?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t. If I knew then I would have shared it with you.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where did you go for a checkup?

# PARTICIPANT:

I went to Aligadwa.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you go for an ultrasound?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I went for an ultrasound appointment. They did it to see if the baby was hurt.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they tell you anything about blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they did not.

# INTERVIEWER:

If Sarita comes to ask you about antenatal checkups and how much they would cost, what would you tell her?

# PARTICIPANT:

If you go for an ultrasound then, it would cost you around rs.1000. If you are taking medicine then it might cost a bit more than that.

# INTERVIEWER:

If Sarita asks you how long a check-up at the hospital last and how much time you should wait, what would you tell her?

# PARTICIPANT:

Well! It will take plenty of time at the hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think it is okay to visit the hospital alone or with someone else?

# PARTICIPANT:

It would be better to go with family members [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think so?

# PARTICIPANT:

Well! The family members would know about the conditions and the problems that may arise in the future.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of issues or conditions would they understand?

# PARTICIPANT:

They would be able to understand the cost of checkups, medicine, and other kinds of stuff too. If a family member accompanies then they would remember kinds of stuff too and it would be easy to remind them.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she asks you about the investigations done, what would you tell her?

# PARTICIPANT:

If there are a lot of issues then you may need to get admitted otherwise, they will give you medicine and tell you to go home.

# INTERVIEWER:

When you go to the hospital, do they tell you anything about a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they don’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do FCHVs or any pregnant women nearby, told you about blood investigations?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they didn’t. Whatever is supposed to happen, god will make it happen no matter what [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone suggests you take a blood test then would you agree to do it or not?

# PARTICIPANT:

I may.

# INTERVIEWER:

What are the advantages of taking a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

It will help us to know if there are any issues.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of issues?

# PARTICIPANT:

[Laughs]. Whether the baby is fine or not and the position of the baby.

# INTERVIEWER:

You mentioned that you had three miscarriages, did you give your blood samples for any blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did not. There wasn’t any issue so I didn’t have to go for checkups. Also, no one gave me any information as such.

# INTERVIEWER:

Didn’t you know that you should go for a checkup?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I had no idea about checkups, all I knew was that an “ultrasound” should be done.

# INTERVIEWER:

Didn’t you go to Fulika health post for any checkups?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I went to the hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where did you go for your immunization schedule?

# PARTICIPANT:

Government hospitals near my house.

# INTERVIEWER:

Didn’t anyone at the hospital who gave you immunization shots tell you whether you need to take blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they gave me a shot and told me to come on the 16th of the next month for another shot.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they check your weight when you went to visit them?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they didn’t do anything else than the shot.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they give you “iron” tablets?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I was injured and couldn’t walk either.

# INTERVIEWER:

What I meant was, you got injured when you were one month pregnant but right now you are nine months pregnant.

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t done it before. My “mummy” went today to bring my medicines. She went with my papers and all the documents and bought me the medicines I needed.

# INTERVIEWER:

Your mother-in-law went to buy your medicine?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, she went to the hospital with my card and they wrote everything about the medicine as well as checkups on my card. They gave me medicine for worm infestation and “iron tablets”.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you take any medicine before that?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did not.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you start taking iron tablets after your “mummy” bought them?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don’t. I don’t want any issues to arise later. That’s why I haven’t been taking any medicine so far.

# INTERVIEWER:

You haven’t been taking iron tablets at all? And what about albendazole?

# PARTICIPANT:

[Laughs]. Yes, I took the medicine for worm infestations after my mother bought it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did anyone tell you when you should take your iron tablets?

# PARTICIPANT:

Once in the morning and once at night.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have to buy one particular piece of medicine?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I do.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did your “mummy” inform you about it after she came back?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, she did not

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you started taking the medicine?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I will start the medicine once I complete the medicine that I had taken for my injury.

# INTERVIEWER:

If the health workers ask you for taking blood tests, would you agree?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I would if they asked me to do it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Would you do it as soon as possible or only when you have money?

# PARTICIPANT:

If the doctor recommends us, I will do it even if I don’t have money on the spot.

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone would have told you to take a blood test before, would you do it?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever heard of HIV/AIDS before?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

So if it was Sarita, do you think she would go for a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, after all the information she got, I think she would.

# INTERVIEWER:

Even after she is informed about different kinds of diseases that would be diagnosed through blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

They will be curious only when they have issues. Otherwise, she will just do what the doctor said.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where do you go for any health-related information?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would visit the “doctor”

# INTERVIEWER:

Where would you find the doctor?

# PARTICIPANT:

Well! Either at the hospital or at the health post.

# INTERVIEWER:

If you get any issues or health problems, with whom do you share them?

# PARTICIPANT:

Mother-in-law or my husband.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever heard of anyone who might have had issues of lack of blood?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have heard that it happens because of weakness.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of issues may arise if there’s a lack of blood in the body?

# PARTICIPANT:

Swelling of legs, yellowish discolouration of the skin.

# INTERVIEWER:

What issues may arise due to the lack of blood in pregnant women?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know.

# INTERVIEWER:

What about the child? Would it affect the newborn child?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of effects seen on newborn babies due to lack of blood in mothers?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have. I heard that there will be weakness and if the nutritional status is maintained then babies are healthy too.

# INTERVIEWER:

What can we do to maintain the lack of blood in our bodies?

# PARTICIPANT:

Nutritional status should be maintained. Issues will come if the nutritional status is not maintained.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say to Sarita, if she complains of weakness and lack of blood in the body?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would advise her to go for a checkup with the doctor.

# INTERVIEWER:

I mean did you have any of the symptoms such as weakness or swelling of legs and hands?

# PARTICIPANT:

Well! Once my legs and arms did swell [laughs]. My father bought me food...

# INTERVIEWER:

So, you have been eating nutritious food but haven’t gone for a consultation?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How did you know that your hands and feet were swelling? Did you go to the doctor?

# PARTICIPANT:

I did not know that my hands and feet were swelling. My neighbour told me to go for a checkup if I had any weakness.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, did you go for a checkup?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did not. I got injured in between so I didn’t get time to go for a checkup. My father-in-law was insisting on going to the hospital, so I went. They did ultrasounds and gave me glucose.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they inform you about any issues while doing the ultrasound?

# PARTICIPANT:

They told me that the baby is doing fine and is healthy. I was injured externally and thankfully my baby was not injured.

# INTERVIEWER:

What else did the doctor say?

# PARTICIPANT:

They told me to be more conscious about my diet and nutrition [laughs]. I don’t know anything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know what HIV is?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

HIV is a virus that affects the immune system of our body and makes us weak. The symptoms of this disease are flu-like symptoms and unexpected weight loss. Once the virus enters our body it doesn’t show any symptoms for 2-3 weeks. Then slowly, the symptoms are visible, and then after a few days, the symptoms disappear. The symptoms come and go so we cannot identify whether it's HIV or not. It is diagnosed only after 6/7 months after taking a blood test.

# PARTICIPANT:

Okay.

# INTERVIEWER:

The virus is not detected after 1-2 months of infection in a blood test. It takes time. This disease is usually transmitted through sexual contact. If a husband has physical contact with his wife without the use of a “condom” then this might transmit from one person to another. If there is a cut in any part of the body and if that injured part comes in contact with the infected blood then there is a chance that the person may contact the disease.

# PARTICIPANT:

So, if the blood from the infected person is transfused to another person then does the person gets the disease too?

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, and if a mother is infected with HIV there is a chance that her baby might get the virus through breast milk. Once someone catches this disease, a person will feel normal till he/she takes their medicine well.

# PARTICIPANT:

It won’t get cured?

# INTERVIEWER:

No, it won’t. Have you seen anyone with the symptoms of the disease in your neighbourhood?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t seen anyone with the disease but I hear that someone in the village has the disease and even died.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you know if the infected person showed any symptoms of the disease? Did you see the person?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, the person was extremely thin. I saw him sleeping in a bed when he came to his in-laws' house.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say if you see someone who has the disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell you to stay in distance from others, not to involve in bad work, and stay safely at your own house.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you say if someone comes to you and asks about HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would say that there’s medicine for it and you should go and do a checkup.

# INTERVIEWER:

If a pregnant woman has HIV, will the baby get the disease too?

# PARTICIPANT:

It can be when the blood from the mother is transmitted to the baby.

# INTERVIEWER:

What sort of effects are seen?

# PARTICIPANT:

It is so weird [laughs] if the father has the disease then it is transmitted to the mother and then to the baby through the mother.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever heard of Hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t. I have heard of HIV but not Hepatitis B.

# INTERVIEWER:

Hepatitis is a kind of disease that affects the liver and its functioning.

# PARTICIPANT:

Smokeless tobacco too affects the liver.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, but these two are completely different cases and scenarios.

# PARTICIPANT:

I have never heard of it before.

# INTERVIEWER:

This is also a kind of disease that gets transmitted through blood. When a couple doesn’t take any protection [condom] during sexual intercourse then it may get transmitted. But it won’t get transmitted due to tobacco eating. When someone gets the disease then he/she gets a high-grade fever, weakness, pain in the upper part of the stomach, and feels sick all the time. Small blisters appear on the skin. Eyes are yellowish etc are the symptoms of Hepatitis. Have you ever heard of someone who might have the disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have neither seen nor heard of the disease but I heard of a person in my neighbourhood who has blisters all over the skin.

# INTERVIEWER:

What were the symptoms seen in the person?

# PARTICIPANT:

The whole skin was black and he told me that it happened because of the side effect of the medicine he was taking.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of medicine was the person taking?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don’t know. He was saying that it isn’t any disease and that once he would go to the witch doctor everything will be fine.

# INTERVIEWER:

If you saw someone who might show the symptoms that I have mentioned before, what suggestions would you give that person?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell that person to go to the doctor for a checkup and take medicine.

# INTERVIEWER:

What issues would arise if a pregnant woman has hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

If the mother has the issues then the baby will have those issues too. If the husband has the disease then the wife will be infected which will transfer to the baby too.

# INTERVIEWER:

What suggestions would you give the person who has hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

She would know whether she has the disease or not and the doctors would advise her to take medicine and other kinds of stuff too.

# INTERVIEWER:

Don’t be shy, we are here to know your views and perspective. Do not hesitate to share it.

# PARTICIPANT:

I was thinking that I am telling everything without any hesitation but I hope there won’t be any issues later on which might be harmful to me.

# INTERVIEWER:

No, please don’t worry.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever heard of the disease “Bhiringi”?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

This disease gets transmitted through sexual contact. If someone is suffering from Bhiringi and the person is physically intimated with another person without any protection[condom] then the disease gets transmitted from one person to another. In this disease, small blisters appear near the sex organ of the body. Small red blisters appear that spreads to the other part of the body. It is even visible between fingers and toes of feet that later spread to other parts of our body. Once the blisters appear then the person gets a high-graded fever too. Headache, body aches, weakness, and swelling of glands are some symptoms associated with the disease. Have you ever seen anyone who might have the disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

I did see a neighbour who had blisters on their skin. I don’t know anything else.

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone told you that she has small blisters near her sex organs, what suggestions would you give her?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would advise that person to visit the doctor and ask for medicine and treatment that they would provide in consultation.

# INTERVIEWER:

If someone comes and asks you what syphilis is, then what would you tell that person?

# PARTICIPANT:

If I know what the disease is then I will give all the information otherwise I won’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

If she asks you whether she should check her blood, what would you say?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would recommend her to take a blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

What if she is scared of taking a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her that issues will not be treated without treatment.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you tell your friend if she comes to you and say that you have issues but there are male health workers in the health institutions and you feel shy to share your issues with them?

# INTERVIEWER:

I would tell her not to feel shy as it is important for her health and your baby's too. So don’t feel shy and share it without hesitation.

# PARTICIPANT:

What kind of behaviour would the health workers show to your friend when she goes to them for a consultation?

# INTERVIEWER:

I think they will behave decently and tell her that the disease will be cured if she takes her medicine timely and follows all the pieces of advice of the doctor.

# INTERVIEWER:

In your view should a hospital have female health workers so that it will be easy for female participants to share their health problems?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, female workers will be an advantage for us.

# INTERVIEWER:

If there are no female workers then would you go to the male doctors?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, otherwise how will I be okay without medicine?

# INTERVIEWER:

How should doctors behave at the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

They should be polite and patient with everyone.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever experienced someone who behaved badly with you?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, sometimes they do not listen to you at all [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think one should share it with their family if they have red blisters like projection all around their sex organ?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they should. If you won’t share it with your family then it would be difficult for you to keep it to yourself. You will feel more pain physically and emotionally if you won’t share it with your family.

# INTERVIEWER:

Your friend Sarita hasn’t shared with her family about all the blisters around her sex organ. What advice would you give to your friend?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell her to share it with her family as they will help her in treatment and other processes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Let’s suppose your friend went to the hospital for a checkup and she even shared it with her family members about her issues. So, in that case, do you think the family members should go and take a blood test too?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they should.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think so?

# PARTICIPANT:

They will be able to diagnose whether they have the disease or not. Whether it was the husband or wife who had the disease. They will come to know everything.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think a single blood sample will help in knowing all the disease conditions such as HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis? Will the pregnant women agree to take blood tests?

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, they will.

# INTERVIEWER:

Even if they have to pay for the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

If the doctors will tell us to do it then they should. If they have to pay they should, but if it is free then they would more likely to do tests.

# INTERVIEWER:

Would you take a blood test or not if you have to pay for it?

# PARTICIPANT:

If the test is free then... [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Would you take a blood test for testing hepatitis B and syphilis?

# PARTICIPANT:

[Laughs] No, I wouldn’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why?

# PARTICIPANT:

No reason.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why wouldn’t you?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would if everyone else will.

# INTERVIEWER:

Are blood test services available at your hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, there isn’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where should you go for blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Taulihawa.

# PARTICIPANT:

Will there be any issues if I said all these kinds of stuff to you?

# INTERVIEWER:

No, there won’t be any issues.

# PARTICIPANT:

I am just scared that anything will happen after saying all these things to you.