**Interview details**

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| Participant ID | MLKAP02C |
| Municipality | Kapilvastu |
| Occupation | Housewife |
| Education (grade) | 0 |
| Type of household | Joint |
| Ethnicity | Hill Brahmin |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 1 |
| Gestation age in months | Unknown |
| Start time | 12:00 |
| End time | 12:26 |
| Interviewer | Bibhu Thapaliya |
| Date | 26 January 2023 |
| Name of translator | Bipana Shrestha |
| Name of transcriber | Bipana Shrestha |

**Background:**

The participant was undergoing kidney dialysis. So, she could not speak for longer than half an hour. She did not know the gestation age of her daughter-in-law. Her son has gone abroad for work.

# INTERVIEWER:

Are you from Kapilvastu?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, we are.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long have you been living here?

# PARTICIPANT:

It's been 18 years living here.

# INTERVIEWER:

As your daughter-in-law is pregnant and you can't go to the health post with her as you are unwell, did you use to go with her during her first pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

My son was here at that time so he used to go with her. I went at the time of delivery.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where is your son now?

# PARTICIPANT:

He is living in Malta now.

# INTERVIEWER:

It can be seen that in other houses too, many of the husbands have gone abroad.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, there is no option here.

# INTERVIEWER:

When does your son come here, once a year?

# PARTICIPANT:

It's been only 3 or 4 months. He has not yet found a job there.

# INTERVIEWER:

So this is your daughter-in-law's second pregnancy. Were there any difficulties at the beginning?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, there was nothing.

# INTERVIEWER:

Anything like nausea or low appetite?

# PARTICIPANT:

It was just for a day or two. Now, she eats well.

# INTERVIEWER:

So she has a good appetite?

# PARTICIPANT:

She only had it for one or two days. There was no problem during the first pregnancy either.

# INTERVIEWER:

That is good then because some women have problems during the first 3 months.

# PARTICIPANT:

No, she doesn't have problems at all. But my elder daughter-in-law has such problems.

# INTERVIEWER:

I also have a son. I had difficulty eating during the 9 months.

# PARTICIPANT:

She eats as soon as she wakes up.

# INTERVIEWER:

What food does she eat?

# PARTICIPANT:

Fruits, milk, roti, egg.

# INTERVIEWER:

So she likes to eat everything?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. Among vegetables, she does not like pumpkins. Except that, she likes to eat everything.

# INTERVIEWER:

What about non-veg?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, non-veg too. We have it very often.

# INTERVIEWER:

So everyone likes it in your family?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, we all have it.

# INTERVIEWER:

If something goes wrong during the pregnancy or if she has to be taken to hospital, how can she be taken since her husband is not there?

# PARTICIPANT:

Her father-in-law and brother-in-law are there.

# INTERVIEWER:

So they take her to the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they do.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times has she visited the hospital during this pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

It's been 2 times.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does she go to the health post or hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

She goes to Butwal.

# INTERVIEWER:

Directly to Butwal? What about health posts?

# PARTICIPANT:

She also visits health posts.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is there blood testing facilities in the health post here?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, there is.

# INTERVIEWER:

So they have tested her blood in the health post?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they have.

# INTERVIEWER:

What type of blood tests do they run there?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't know about that. I can't go there myself. I have not asked them either. I should have asked.

# INTERVIEWER:

You are not well yourself.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. In the case of vaccines, they come to the village to give the vaccines.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do the FCHVs give the vaccines themselves?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes. They come from the municipality office and give vaccines. In some cases, they call the patients to the municipality office for vaccines.

# INTERVIEWER:

So your daughter-in-law did not have any kind of blood deficiency?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, she did not.

# INTERVIEWER:

At present, pregnant women are needed to test their blood, at the hospital or in the health post if the testing facilities are available. It is a mandatory test to be done after 3 months of pregnancy. In these tests, any kind of blood deficiency and other diseases are tested. Ministry of Health has given rules to test diseases like HIV and syphilis, usually those transmitted through sexual intercourse. As such diseases can be transmitted from mother to child, these are tested in the mother in order to treat and prevent them in time to avoid transmission to the child. But we have understood that these tests are not done in all places.

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't think they do all this. We don't know about this. It was not done during the first pregnancy. We had taken her to Butwal that time too.

# INTERVIEWER:

So the doctor and the nurses did not tell you what tests were being performed and why?

# PARTICIPANT:

I only went for the last visit. So I don't know about all this.

# INTERVIEWER:

It's already been 8 or 10 years since these services have been provided.

# PARTICIPANT:

My son and daughter-in-law used to go to the hospital. So I don't know about this. I also did not ask them.

# INTERVIEWER:

Some doctors tell you about this while some don't. If any disease is detected through the blood test, then they tell the patients about it. Otherwise, they usually don't. Here, many people are going to India for work. They may get the infection from there and transfer it to their wives. So the child may also get affected. There are many such cases. Have you heard of any such case here?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't heard.

# INTERVIEWER:

Any HIV or syphilis cases?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not heard of any such case in this village.

# INTERVIEWER:

Were such cases present in the past?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't know about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you have heard about HIV? In radio, television, etc?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have heard about it. But I have not heard about any positive cases in the village.

# INTERVIEWER:

So you do not know where HIV-infected people go for check-ups?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I don't.

# INTERVIEWER:

As your daughter-in-law is pregnant now, others may also get pregnant, do you think such tests are beneficial or not that important?

# PARTICIPANT:

They may be beneficial if available.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard about hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of any hepatitis-positive cases here?

# PARTICIPANT:

I don't think so.

# INTERVIEWER:

Where have you heard about hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

My sister's daughter had it. She is married now and has a son.

# INTERVIEWER:

So she had it before marriage?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, during childhood.

# INTERVIEWER:

What symptoms did she have? Do you remember?

# PARTICIPANT:

I was not here then. They took her to Palpa for treatment.

# INTERVIEWER:

How old was she at that time?

# PARTICIPANT:

She was about 12 or 13 years old.

# INTERVIEWER:

Was it cured?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it was cured. Now she has a son of 6 or 7 years old.

# INTERVIEWER:

It's like jaundice. Yellowing of eyes and nails is seen.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, yellow eyes and nails, also fever was present.

# INTERVIEWER:

Hepatitis B is seen in many people. It also has different modes of transmission. It has symptoms and treatment can also be carried out. Syphilis can also be treated, but not HIV. HIV can only be managed or controlled.

# PARTICIPANT:

What is syphilis?

# INTERVIEWER:

It is also transmitted sexually.

# PARTICIPANT:

It is like a skin infection.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you known anyone infected with Syphilis?

# PARTICIPANT:

Not here, but in our old village.

# INTERVIEWER:

How is it transmitted? Hepatitis, HIV and syphilis are transmitted through blood transfusion too. Also, if their saliva or blood enters our body through any cut or wound, then also we can be infected.

# PARTICIPANT:

I heard about a similar disease. There were wounds on the skin. They lived in caves in such conditions. I think syphilis is similar to that.

# INTERVIEWER:

In a cave away from home? They used to isolate patients far from home, in a cave-like place, to prevent its transmission. And what happened to these patients? Did they live? Was the disease treated?

# PARTICIPANT:

Those with "kor" did not survive.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you mean by "kor"?

# PARTICIPANT:

He had symptoms like rotting nails and severe dryness of the skin. It's like syphilis.

# INTERVIEWER:

It's not leprosy?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it is leprosy.

# INTERVIEWER:

The fingertips usually fall off due to decomposition.

# PARTICIPANT:

One person had this disease here. He was treated. He was an old man, who died later.

# PARTICIPANT:

Earlier, they used to keep the patients in a cave and bring them food.

# INTERVIEWER:

What medicines were used back then? Was there any herbal medicine?

# PARTICIPANT:

There were no medicines or treatments available at that time.

# INTERVIEWER:

So they used to keep the patients in the cave and leave them with no treatment?

# PARTICIPANT:

It was more than 40 years ago.

# INTERVIEWER:

So it was a very long time ago. Even we were not born.

# PARTICIPANT:

One of the patients had 3 fingers, which fell off later. I used to take food to the patient and keep it outside. They used to come and get it if they see. It was on our way to work at that time.

# INTERVIEWER:

So were they just villagers or your relative too?

# PARTICIPANT:

We were relatives too, but distant ones. People in the village are like relatives. Some are even closer than our real relatives.

# INTERVIEWER:

So they used to heal just living inside the cave?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they usually died. There were no medicines or treatments available at that time. They did not get proper care or proper food. They just used to look and wait for someone to come.

# INTERVIEWER:

Was any kind of ointment available for the wound? They might have to suffer pain, itching or irritation.

# PARTICIPANT:

Nothing was available at that time. They used to die without treatment and their bodies were buried. That's it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Now it can be treated if diagnosed in time.

# PARTICIPANT:

Now it is considered a common disease. We can get medicine from the Zonal hospital (a regional hospital), even in Taulihawa.

# PARTICIPANT:

Even it is available from the VDC. When an old man was infected, they came from the VDC and gave vaccines to the surrounding neighbours, to prevent the infection to the neighbours.

# INTERVIEWER:

What was he infected with?

# PARTICIPANT:

Leprosy.

# INTERVIEWER:

Leprosy was also advertised well by the media.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it was. Now there is a cure for all diseases.

# PARTICIPANT:

Not all diseases. We are not cured yet.

# INTERVIEWER:

Communicable diseases are now easier to treat than non-communicable diseases.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I am suffering.

# INTERVIEWER:

But you are doing dialysis. Medications and a proper diet can also help with it. If the diseases like syphilis are transmitted to pregnant women, then the child is also infected in the mother's womb. Even after the birth of the child, it can be transmitted through the mother's milk. That's why it has been so important to spread awareness of these diseases, and their screening through blood tests and check-up services even in the health posts. If these diseases are diagnosed through blood tests, then their transmission to the child can be prevented through proper treatment and medication. That's why this program has been implemented in many places. In the case of health posts, these services are available wherever there are lab facilities. If not, then the people need to go to the hospitals to get these services.

# PARTICIPANT:

Where is your branch in Taulihawa?

# INTERVIEWER:

I am from Kathmandu but there is an office in Taulihawa too.

# PARTICIPANT:

Where do you live?

# INTERVIEWER:

My home is in Gajeda but my office is in Taulihawa.

# PARTICIPANT:

Are you from a government hospital?

# INTERVIEWER:

No, I am not from a hospital.

# PARTICIPANT:

Are these test services available in Taulihawa too?

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, they are available in the district hospital.

# PARTICIPANT:

My son and daughter-in-law usually visit the hospital. So they might have done these tests.

# INTERVIEWER:

If you ask, then she might tell you about it.

# PARTICIPANT:

There are 3 or 4 types of tests done there.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, there are blood tests and urine tests.

# PARTICIPANT:

She leaves the reports at her parent's house. When she goes to Butwal for a check-up, she stays at her parent's home. Earlier, I used to take her to the hospital. I can't go with her now. She also has a small child, so she goes to her parent's house and her mother takes her to the hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

How old is the first child?

# PARTICIPANT:

She is just one and a half years old. She turned 1-year-old on the 4th of Kartik.

# INTERVIEWER:

As people usually hesitate to talk about diseases like HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B in this community, do they go to the hospital and tell about their symptoms?

# PARTICIPANT:

They must tell if they go to the hospital.

# INTERVIEWER:

Or do they hide these diseases?

# PARTICIPANT:

If we have a disease, then we should tell the doctor about it.

# PARTICIPANT:

As we tell the doctors about our diseases, these patients also might tell us about theirs.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of behavior is shown to such patients in the hospitals by doctors or nurses?

# PARTICIPANT:

We don't know about it.

# INTERVIEWER:

Most of them feel shame to go to the hospital. They usually hide such diseases and visit the hospital only when the condition is severe. Due to this, it becomes late for treatment.

# PARTICIPANT:

It's not the case in our family.

# INTERVIEWER:

Are there discussions or any classes about sexually transmitted diseases in "gaaughar clinic" (village clinic), "aama samuha"(mother's group) or by health volunteers?

# PARTICIPANT:

I am not a member of "aama samuha". I do not think there are such classes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Your daughter-in-law might also have attended. Have you heard of any such class?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think she is in the group.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they conduct weekly or monthly meetings?

# PARTICIPANT:

It's once a month.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of topics do they discuss there?

# PARTICIPANT:

There are discussions on different topics.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do health volunteers manage such groups?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they do.

# INTERVIEWER:

So they teach you things like how to wear masks or wash hands during COVID?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they did. Also, they brought and distributed them.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do they inform you whenever any disease spreads such as dengue?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they do.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they explain very nicely. If any condition arises, there are 300 houses here, all are united. If there is any problem such as death or fire or anything, then all people come forward to help.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many members are there in 1 mothers group?

# PARTICIPANT:

We are 29 members in our group.

# INTERVIEWER:

29 means it is a big group.

# PARTICIPANT:

We were 32 earlier but 2 of them died.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do all these 29 members gather for a meeting or only those who can come?

# PARTICIPANT:

Some come while some don't. We can share our problems there.

# INTERVIEWER:

It must have been many years now.

# PARTICIPANT:

We were in the group for a very long time. Then there was a decision to give it to a club. The club was supposed to do well but it didn't.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of club?

# PARTICIPANT:

We gave some money to the club but we don't know where the fund went. Here, we have not seen any development but there is in Banganga municipality. There have been a lot of funds collected in Banganga municipality, either from community forests or nurseries.

# INTERVIEWER:

So these are the things I wanted to talk about. This study is about the tests regarding HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis through the blood screening of pregnant women.

# PARTICIPANT:

There have been discussions about it. This should be done. If it is important, then we must do it. Last time, my son was here so he went to the hospital with her. I went only for the last visit. This time, he is not here but I can't go to the hospital with her.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have anything to ask or tell us?

# PARTICIPANT:

What should we ask?

# INTERVIEWER:

If you have any curiosity or questions, then you can ask.

# PARTICIPANT:

No, we don't have any.