**Interview details**

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| Participant ID | PWKAT01A |
| Municipality | Budhanilkantha |
| Occupation | Housemaker |
| Education (grade) | 2 |
| Type of household | Nuclear |
| Ethnicity | Bhujel, Janajati |
| Nb of pregnancies before this one | 1 |
| Gestation age in weeks | 7 months |
| Interviewer | Bibhu Thapaliya |
| Date | 24/02/2022 |

**Background**

The interview was conducted in the counseling room of the hospital. The woman was in rush to go back home. So, the interview was short.

**Interview**

# INTERVIEWER:

What is your profession?

# PARTICIPANT:

Housemaker.

# INTERVIEWER:

Until which class did you study?

# PARTICIPANT:

Plus 2.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, Bhujel falls into the category of Magar?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, we are Janajati.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you live in a nuclear or joint family? I mean do you live with your in-laws or just with your husband?

# PARTICIPANT:

I live with my husband.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have another child or is this your first pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I do. I have a daughter.

# INTERVIEWER:

# How many weeks pregnant are you?

# PARTICIPANT:

29 weeks running.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times did you come for an antenatal checkup?

# PARTICIPANT:

Three times.

# INTERVIEWER:

You are seven months pregnant, right?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

# Have you had a blood test since the beginning of your pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have.

# INTERVIEWER:

How many times have you had a blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

Once.

# INTERVIEWER:

Here, in the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

You didn't go somewhere else for blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I didn’t go somewhere else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know why you had this blood test and what was tested by these tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

To detect any diseases like HIV, diabetes, urine tests, etc.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you have a blood test for HIV only, or were syphilis and hepatitis B also included?

PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they were also included.

# INTERVIEWER:

When did you have the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

During my first ANC visit.

# INTERVIEWER:

What is the procedure to come for a checkup here, at the hospital? Do you need to make an appointment or just pick up a ticket on the spot?

PARTICIPANT:

I came here on my own. My first child was born here, so I came on my own, without the advice of a doctor. The ticket costs 50 rupees, while combining all the costs of blood tests etc, it will cost about 2200-2400 rupees.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you have to pay separately while having blood tests?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long does it take to get the results of the blood test?

# PARTICIPANT:

A week.

# INTERVIEWER:

So it didn't come on the same day?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, it did not.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did they say after reading your blood results?

# PARTICIPANT:

They said that everything is normal.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did they tell you before taking your blood sample? Did they tell you what was going to be tested?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they did not. They told me to give my blood sample and collect the reports after 2-3 days. We followed exactly what they said.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did they give you separate counselling for HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they did not.

# INTERVIEWER:

What about syphilis and hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they did not. We showed the report to the doctor that said the report was normal. Nothing else.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you like this health facility? What would make the place more accessible?

# PARTICIPANT:

I wish I didn't have to stand in a long queue or stand in a crowd with the others.

# INTERVIEWER:

How long do you have to stand in a queue?

# PARTICIPANT:

Including taking the ticket for a check-up and everything, it takes about an hour and a half. Sometimes even two hours to meet the doctor.

# INTERVIEWER:

What do you think is that crowded?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think it's because there are fewer doctors than there are patients.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does someone accompany you when you visit or do you come alone?

# PARTICIPANT:

My husband drops me here.

# INTERVIEWER:

And does he go to work after dropping you or does he accompany you?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, he goes to his work.

# INTERVIEWER:

What is his job?

# PARTICIPANT:

He works as a Pathao rider.

# INTERVIEWER:

Has he ever accompanied you to the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

As it takes time, he stays until halfway through. But most of the time he doesn't stay because of his work.

# INTERVIEWER:

Does the doctor or nurses ask you to bring your husband or anyone else to accompany you?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, they don’t.

# INTERVIEWER:

Since you are seven months pregnant, have you ever felt the need for a companion to accompany you during a check-up?

PARTICIPANT:

Of course, I do feel that. But thankfully nothing serious has happened so far. So I come alone without anyone's help.

# INTERVIEWER:

# Whom would you like to accompany you to the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

Husband [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Our research is about HIV and other related diseases. Have you heard of HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, I have.

# INTERVIEWER:

# Have you ever seen someone you know or in your household who may have HIV?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't seen anyone who has HIV.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you know if HIV can be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her child?

# PARTICIPANT:

# Yes, it can be transmitted.

# INTERVIEWER:

How is it transmitted?

# PARTICIPANT:

Blood, syringes…

# INTERVIEWER:

It can also be transmitted from an HIV-positive mother to the baby through breastfeeding or through the placenta. Other sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis or hepatitis B can also be transmitted like this. Have you ever heard of hepatitis B?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have never heard of it before.

# INTERVIEWER:

Like HIV, hepatitis B can be transmitted through sexual contact, syringes and from the infected mother to the child. HIV isn't curable but hepatitis B and syphilis are curable through proper medication. With medication, we can also prevent transmission from mother to child. Do you know anyone who might have hepatitis B or syphilis?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you heard of "Bhiringi"?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Yes, Bhiringi is the Nepali name for Syphilis. So, do you know anyone who might have Bhiringi?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

Would you participate in any counselling session regarding HIV if you were asked by doctors or nurses to attend?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

Why do you think you should attend such a counselling session?

# PARTICIPANT:

It will help us to know about the disease and other additional information.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever attended any counselling sessions at the hospital?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you experience any pregnancy symptoms such as nausea at seven months of pregnancy?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, not so far.

# INTERVIEWER:

Was it difficult in the beginning?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, the first three months were difficult but then it was better.

# INTERVIEWER:

What did you do when you felt bad at the beginning of your pregnancy? Did you take any medication?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I did not take any medicine because I thought it was common during pregnancy.

# INTERVIEWER:

How old is your firstborn daughter?

# PARTICIPANT:

Three years old.

# INTERVIEWER:

So, you had your next baby at three years age gap?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

That's great.

# INTERVIEWER:

Has the doctor commented anything about the health of your child?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they said that there are some issues with the head of the baby.

# INTERVIEWER:

What kind of issues?

# PARTICIPANT:

Water is reserved in the skull of the baby. However, ultrasound has shown that it is subsiding and is turning normal. My baby had some heart issues too. We went to Ganga Lal for consultation. They said that everything is okay. Only after birth, we will know what may happen [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

If everything's normal then there will be no issues.

# PARTICIPANT:

We believe what the doctor said. Hopefully, there won't be any other issues.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is anyone of your friends or relatives pregnant?

# PARTICIPANT:

No.

# INTERVIEWER:

When will you come for your next consultation?

# PARTICIPANT:

Next month.

# INTERVIEWER:

Did you come here early morning?

# PARTICIPANT:

At around 8 am. It took an hour to get the ticket.

# INTERVIEWER:

Are you required to pay money for each visit?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, only the price of the ticket should be paid.

# INTERVIEWER:

For each visit?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, for each visit.

# INTERVIEWER:

Is it affordable for you?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it is.

# INTERVIEWER:

But it might be difficult for people who are not able to afford the price. It would be great if the service was free for those who cannot afford hospital bills.

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, it would be great. They might make it more affordable in the coming days [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

If anyone that you know has contracted a sexually transmitted disease, what suggestions would you give them?

# PARTICIPANT:

Ahh [laughs].

# INTERVIEWER:

Where should one go for checkups? Whom should they share her issues with?

# PARTICIPANT:

It is advisable to visit the doctor first so that they would give appropriate suggestions.

# INTERVIEWER:

If a person has symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases, whom do you think they should share their problems with within their family?

# PARTICIPANT:

Within the family, I think you should share your problems with your husband first.

INTERVIEWER:

Will the husband be able to understand?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, he will.

# INTERVIEWER:

And then one should go to the doctor?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes.

# INTERVIEWER:

People are usually shy to share about that, especially when symptoms are visible. Have you seen anyone who has shown such symptoms?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I have not.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think we should hide these issues and the symptoms of the disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I think they should not.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think a husband should accompany their wife or not after the symptoms are seen?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, both of them should go for the test together. It will allow them to know who was the first infected.

# INTERVIEWER:

Sometimes, in such a case, the husband gets angry with his wife and tends to have doubts too. What is your opinion on this?

# PARTICIPANT:

They might doubt, but in such a case we should counsel them positively.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you like the behaviour of doctors and nurses in hospital settings?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they are always cheerful and behave decently with me.

# INTERVIEWER:

Have you ever seen any health workers discriminating based on caste or disease? For example, someone who belongs to the Dalit or someone who has sexually transmitted diseases.

# PARTICIPANT:

No, I haven't.

# INTERVIEWER:

But do you think it happens? I mean health workers discriminating based on caste or disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

It may happen in the village or rural areas. Especially between uneducated people.

# INTERVIEWER:

What would you do or say if you learn that someone you know, such as a sister-in-law, has a sexually transmitted disease?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would tell them to take advice from the doctors and follow all the bits of advice from the doctor accordingly.

# INTERVIEWER:

If the parent is someone who is your elder, then what would your response be, if they refuse to listen to you?

# PARTICIPANT:

If they don’t listen to me then I would approach someone who would be able to convince them and tell them what's right and what isn't.

# INTERVIEWER:

Do you think, someone should have a blood test even if it is not available in the closest facility?

# PARTICIPANT:

Yes, they should have the blood test.

# INTERVIEWER:

Before the symptoms are seen or after?

# PARTICIPANT:

I think before the symptoms are seen because it is better to know.

# INTERVIEWER:

What if the hospital is not nearby?

# PARTICIPANT:

I would recommend going to the hospital and not relying on small health institutions such as health posts.

# INTERVIEWER:

We are at the end of our conversation now. Is there anything that you would like to ask me?

# PARTICIPANT:

Nothing much.