

Background: The level of BP/CR is still not well responded to by pregnant women despite being incorporated into ANC services therefore the study was carried out to determine Factors affecting Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness among antenatal mothers in Wakisi Subcounty, Buikwe District (Uganda).

Study objectives: The study assessed the level of birth preparedness and complication readiness, socio-demographic characteristics affecting birth preparedness and complication readiness and institutional factors affecting birth preparedness and complication readiness among pregnant mothers attending ANC Wakisi Health Centre III, Buikwe District.

Study methodology: A descriptive cross section study among 384 respondents with gestation age of 30 weeks and above attending Wakisi HCIII ANC selected by lottery method was employed and generated qualitative data the way it existed naturally during the study period.

Results: The results are in line with the study objectives, majority were aware of BP/CR (84%) and had prepared for birth (88%). However, majority knew BP as preparing for safe delivery (55%) and other defining characteristics were minimally known (45% %). The major source of financial support was the husband (43%). Attendance of ANC was poor as majority began attending late (43%) and safe delivery was the major reason for women reporting to book for health facility delivery. Bleeding was the most well known complication in pregnancy (32%) among the respondents. Regarding the attitude of health workers, respondents (39%) showed that health workers decide care on client's behalf and do not know their role when complications arise.

Conclusion: The level of BP/CR is still low and affected mainly by knowledge, attitude, attendance of ANC, and insufficient health education. Besides women may not be in position to seek health services while their husbands are away.

Recommendations: There is still need to further establish factors affecting focused ANC. The stake holders and service users should actively discuss the best measures for improved birth preparedness and complication readiness. Women have to be economically empowered.