

ABSTRACT

A woman is the foundation of family health. Survey of 160 households was conducted and married women were interviewed. Questionnaire comprising on 83 items was used to collect data on demographic, socioeconomic conditions, general household health, maternal health, husband's health and trends of disease spread, health care facilities, and water availability in last ten years in the study area. Results revealed that income level was not directly affecting the illness and maternal health of women because many other factors like education, awareness also affect the health status of women. But hygienic conditions were strongly affected by the household income level; no of rooms ($F=11.135$, $p<.001$), no of latrines ($F=13.803$, $p<.001$), source of drinking water ($F=3.776$, $p<.05$), perception of turbidity ($F=3.996$, $p<.05$). In survey, income level of 63.8% households was less than ten thousand per month. Majority of houses had only one earner in house. The congestion in houses could be the reason of disease spread in Gangapur. The Livelihood of families was being exhausted in illness because the spread of disease was increasing. Despite of availability of lady health worker, women preferred their cases to be dealt by midwives. Education of women was positively affecting their health; women illness ($F=2.838$, $p<.05$), regular check ups ($F=4.480$, $p<.01$), personal health in last ten years ($F=3.477$, $p<.01$) which shows that an educated women can better care herself and her children.

Water quality of Gangapur was unfit for drinking. Sulphate and nitrate ions were above permissible range in twenty percent samples of tube well. Almost all water samples from different depths had fecal contamination. Poor drinking water quality could be one of the several reasons for diarrhea, dysentery and other stomach problems.