

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the conditions of childbearing women in the rural settings of Punjab and to know how they access the available health facilities. Another aim was to find out that what kind of health care facilities are available and also to examine their efficacy in the area under study. The qualitative research technique has been used for the study. Total eight women from four different *Biraderis* were taken in sample, one from a better household and other from comparatively poor households. This study was carried out in a village namely *Kot Pindi Das*, district *Sheikhopura*. The detailed interviews from other stakeholders were also under taken including people from Public, private and traditional health sector. Other techniques like Participant Observation and Participatory Rural Appraisal is also used. It can be stated from the study that there are many impediments in accessing health care facilities for a childbearing women. Poverty, ignorance, powerlessness, dependency, and transportation are the main factors. Other things which make the childbearing women more vulnerable are no say in decision making about family size, gap between two children, and balanced diet. There are women in the village who do not get regular checkups, ultrasounds, ante-natal and post-natal care. The results indicate a high level of dissatisfaction about available public health care facilities. The absence of local government system makes the health care facilities crippled. It is also found that many people were aware of quacks, but still bunch of people were seen around them because people do not have other choice. The trend has slightly changed among those who are educated and belonged to better households but traditional midwives are quite popular among the people of the area under study. The attitude of people towards the health service providers like *Hakeems* has changed and people prefer doctors over them but the availability of doctors and hospitals is a big question. The role of health service providers like *Peers*, *Bengali babas* and *Magicians* is still there. People by and large have strong belief in the things like keeping *Taveeze*, performing *Mannat* and visiting *Dargah or Darbar*.