Introduction

There were approximately 287,000 deaths worldwide in 2020 with low-income countries accounting for 95% (WHO, 2023).

In Nigeria, high maternal death is an ongoing challenge and accounts for 50% of global incidents (Hogan, 2010; Olarewaju, 2021).

The north-eastern region of Nigeria has the highest MMR with 1,549 deaths per 100,000 live births (Abimbola et al., 2018) 27.8% women in the north utilise maternal healthcare centres compared to women in the south (89.0%). The number of births not attended by skilled attendants was high in the north (86.5%) and lowest in the south (9.5%) (Abimbola et al., 2018).

However, these deaths are preventable if pregnant women aptly utilise the healthcare service provided, especially in the rural areas (Arogundade, et al., 2021, National Population Commission, 2019).

Aim of the study

To explore factors that limit pregnant women in utilising Maternal Health Care Services in Bauchi State, Nigeria.

Methodology & Methods

There were 16 women of reproductive age who participated in the study. The research design was Phenomenology (Descriptive).

Data Collection:
- FGD
- Semi-Structured Interview
- Data Analysis

Results

Figure 1: Health Care Challenges as a limiting factor to the underutilisation of maternal health services in Bauchi State, Nigeria.

- Attitude of Health Workers
- Financial constraints
- Inadequate Staff
- Poor infrastructure

Cultural beliefs
Reliance on Traditional Care
Husband Supremacy
Masculinity during Pregnancy

Conclusions

- Pregnant women are considered stronger when they give birth at home
- Patients’ financial difficulty affected their capacity to pay for maternal health services
- Discouraging attitudes and insufficiency of maternal health workers affected patients to utilise maternal services

References: