

International Maternal Newborn Health Conference 2023

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Fears driving women's preference and decision-making on mode of birth: experience from Burkina Faso

Submission Status : Pending Review

Submission Type : Panel

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Category:Research

Country:Burkina Faso

Primary Track:Strengthening Quality of Care

Indicate Whether Your Abstract Has Special Focus On Any Of The Following:None

Abstract Text:In Burkina Faso, facility-based caesarean section (CS) rates have increased markedly since 2006 when the government deployed a national subsidy policy for birth and emergency obstetric care. There is concern that the policy may have also increased unnecessary CSs. Suboptimal communication with healthcare providers, and women's lack of information and involvement in decision-making during childbirth, are recognized problems in Burkina Faso. The increase in CSs, coupled with the lack of information and communication, may place pregnant women in a situation of extreme vulnerability. We aimed to explore women's fears, and factors driving these fears, in Burkina Faso. , This formative qualitative research was conducted in 2020 to inform the QUALI-DEC project, to design, adapt and implement a strategy to optimize use of CS. We conducted in-depth interviews (IDIs) with pregnant and post-partum women in 4 hospitals in Burkina Faso and used a thematic analysis approach to summarize findings on fear. , A total of 38 IDIs (22 with pregnant and 16 with post-partum women) were conducted Most participants reported that they experienced fear and anxiety during pregnancy. Although women feared losing their life and having complications during childbirth that could influence outcomes, most did not talk about their fears. It was challenging talking about fears with a birth companion because most women did not choose this person, who was typically a member of her family or her in-laws who was available when the day came. Although most women did not discuss fears with providers, spouses, or parents, the few women who did talk about it benefited from the emotional support of providers and spouses, which helped to control their anxieties. Women preferred a vaginal birth and were afraid of needing a CS. This preference was based on fear of failing to be recognized as a "strong woman" by their in-laws. , Preferred mode of birth is mainly driven by the fear of undeserved social recognition. In particular, recognition by the family in-law is a cause of anxiety among pregnant women. The emotional and social impact of a CS on women should not be ignored.

Ethical Declaration:Yes

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