Original Research Article

Utilization of primary health care service among women of childbearing age in Akwu Ibeku in Aboh Mbaise local government area Imo state

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Abstract

This study assessed the utilization of primary health care among women of child bearing age in Akwa Ibeku Aboh Mbaise L.G.as Imo state. The objective of the question is to ascertain the awareness of women of childbearing age to availability of primary health care services, to identified services that are available in Akwu Ibeku health centre and the factors that influence the utilization of primary health services. Four research questions guided the study. The population of the study consists of women of child bearing age who antenatal Akwa Ibeku health centres. The study design was descriptive using simple random sampling in selecting 100 respondents from the four villages. A question was used for data collection with Cronbach Alph reliability co-efficient of 0.05. Data collected was analysed using mean and percentage to answer the research questions. The result revealed that women of child bearing age attend health center only when pregnant or drug immunization not really when they are sick or need medical attention. It was recommend that Government should improve the services and provide adequate equipment, staff and good road for proper utilization of the primary health care services.

Keywords: primary health, child bearing age, Akwu Ibeku health centre,

Introduction

The world health organization (WHO) defined primary health care as an essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individual and families in the community through their involvement and at a cost the can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self reliance and self determination (WHO, 2008).

For primary health to be effective, it has to be utilized. Utilization is the act of using materials, product and services to make things functions, extend the life span of machineries, improved durability of material and other things that can lead to better performance and less risk of damage.

Research has shown that utilization of primary health care services is affected by ignorance wealth, negative attitude and inaccessibility of the available health care facilities to women (especially women of child bearing age). Which have recorded increase in antenatal care services, Sub-Sahara African (Olu, 2010).

In 2013, the global utilization was 81% while the Sub-Sahara African figure was 75% and 61% in Nigerian. This proportion was lower than the 96% reported in neighboring West Africa Country, Ghana (WHO, 2015).

Undoubtedly, just like other Sub-Sahara Africa countries, Nigerian is lacking behind in primary health care services (using antenatal care services as example).

In 2014, WHO established that only 61% of pregnant women in Nigeria ever attended at least one contact with a skilled Antenatal care provider only 57% made the world health organization recommended four (4) visit between 2006 and 2013 despite free antenatal care (ANC) in most parts of Nigerian.

A problem well defined is half solved. The research observed during her visit to primary health care center in Akwu Ibeku a low turnout of client to the center it was noticed that the inhabitant mothers mainly go to traditional birth attendants for deliveries and private hospital for treatment of their illness and that of their children as well. Does it mean that the mothers do not receive the expected health services of are the ignorant of the presence of services available there. This prompted the researcher to investigate on the utilization of primary health care services in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh mbaise local government Area, Imo state.

Objectives of the study

To ascertain awareness of women of child bearing age to availability of primary health care services and their function.

To determine the extent which women of child bearing age utilized the primary health care services.

To identify factors that influences the utilization of these health care services.

To identify the ways of improving utilization of primary health care services in Akwu Ibeku

Materials and Methods

Research Design

In this study, the survey research design was adopted, using the questionnaire as the instrument for data collection.

Setting / geographical location

The research was conducted in Akwu Ibeku in Aboh Mbaise L.G.A, Imo State.

Target population

The target population of study comprised all the mothers in child bearing age that resides in Akwu Ibeku. This brings about a total population of the study

to 1000. These include Umuoji. 200, Umuopara 250, Umuduru 150 Umuokudu 400 respectively.

Sample and sampling technique

A sample was considered because the study population cannot all be reached because of time constraints and finance.

Nwanna holds the opinion that a large population could strain the resource and time, thereby affecting the quantity of findings, that 10% of population if in thousand 40% if in hundred should be used.

Thus, 10% of the total population (1000) will be for the study.

Sampling Technique

In this study random sampling was used, A Simple random sampling technique is that which gives all members equal chance of being selected. In a population 1000, each of villages has a chance of being included in the sample.

According to Nwanna's formular which stated that when

There is a few hundred	- 40%
If many hundred	- 20%
If a few thousand	-10%
If several thousand	-5%

Therefore the researcher used 10% of the entire population

Thus $\dfrac{1000}{1} \times \dfrac{10}{100} = 100$

Then to determine the sample size f or each village, the researcher used this

Formular; x = n/N x p/1

Umuoji = $\dfrac{100}{1000} \times \dfrac{200}{1} = 20$

Umuopara = $\dfrac{100}{1000} \times \dfrac{250}{1} = 25$

Umuduru = $\dfrac{100}{1000} \times \dfrac{150}{1} = 15$

Umuokudu $= \dfrac{100}{1000}$ x $\dfrac{200}{1}$ $= 40$

Instrument for data collections

The researcher used the questionnaire for data collection. A set of questionnaire was designed for data collection from the respondents to choose from predetermined options and comment freely where necessary the questionnaire was divided into two sections, section A was the bio-data of the respondents while section B contained items on the variable under study.

Validity of the Instruments

The validation of the instrument was determined by first of all comparing the objective of the study with the items in the instrument. Secondly, the validation of the instrument was subjected to face content validity test by giving copies of the instrument to research expert in school including the supervisor. Appropriate modifications were made on the recommendation of the experts.

Reliability of instrument

A reliability of the instrument was established through text-retest technique. The respondents filled the (100) copies of questionnaire which were distributed to the women. Two (2) weeks later, the same subject were revisited and re-administered with fresh copies of the same questionnaire. The instrument used was consistent in measuring what it is expected to measure and its testing method is through the information obtained from the study group. The two test were correlated using cronbach's Alpha co-efficient to test their significance at 0.05 level of significance.

Method of data collection

The researcher visited the respondents in Akwu Ibeku community and explained the items to them which include the questionnaire and co-operated. The consent of the traditional ruler and village heads was sought before the researcher entered the village to distribute the questionnaire. The respondents were given the questionnaire to respondent to and they were later collected. After two weeks, the questionnaire were given to the respondents under study their responses were again collected and the scores like previous ones were the same.

Method of Data analysis

The method of data analysis used is descriptive data analysis. The data obtained was presented on tables and simple percentage and bar charts.

Formula used for percentages

$X = F$ / x 100/1
F = frequency of respondent
N = number of sample size
X = percentage representation.

Ethical Consideration

Ethical consideration refers to the conduct which is in line with the norm s and morals of the society. The researcher obtained permission from the traditional ruler by self introduction, stating the purpose of the research visit after which he gave in their consent which questionnaires where shared the participating respondents were asked not to include their names and address in the questionnaire to avoid identifying them on the information supplied (anonymity) and enhance co-operation. Data collected were analyzed without any alternation, books Journal and other source.

Results

This chapter presents and discusses the result of the study on the utilization of primary health care service among women of child bearing age in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. About one hundred (100) copies of the questionnaire were distributed, and all were collected back making one hundred per cent (100%) return rate. This one hundred (100) copies were used for analyses.

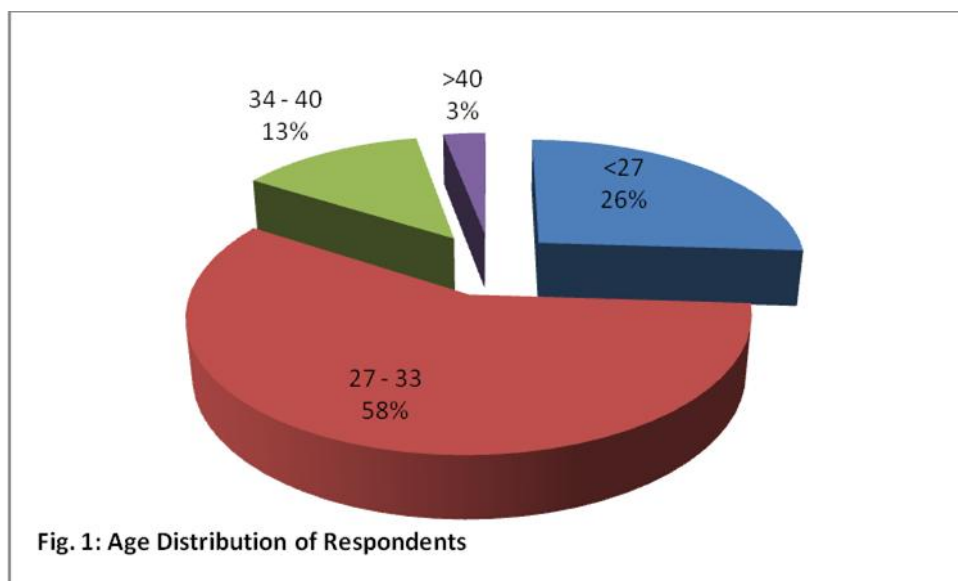**Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents**

Table 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age (years)	Frequency	(%)
<27	26	26
27 - 33	58	58
34 - 40	13	13
>40	3	3
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2018

The result in table 1 presents the age distribution of the respondents. The result shows that the highest proportion of respondents was aged between 27 and 33 years (58%), followed by those aged 27 and below (26%) and then those aged 34 – 40years (13%). This is very important because the women in these age brackets were still having children and should need the services at the health centers. This is also expected to facilitate the respondents to give accurate and current information on the utilization of the PHCs in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. See figure 1 for a graphical representation of the result.

Fig. 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Table 2: Religion Affiliation of Respondents

Religion	Frequency	(%)
Christianity	91	91
Moslem	9	9
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2018

The result in table 2 presents the religion affiliation of respondents. The distribution of the respondents by religious affiliation shows that Christianity was the dominant religion in the study area as the study reports about 91% of the respondents were Christian while the rest of 9% were reported to be Moslem. See figure 2 for a graphical representation of the result.
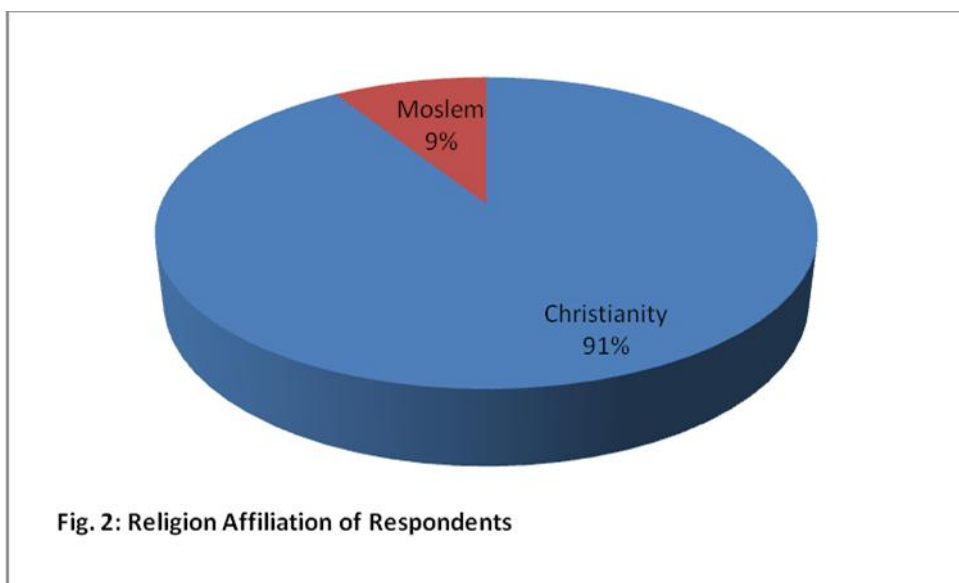
Fig. 2: Religion Affiliation of Respondents

Table 3: Occupation Distribution of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	(%)
Student	2	2
Teachers	7	7
Civil Servant	9	9
Traders	46	46
Farmers	32	32
Others	4	4
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2018

The result in table 3 shows the occupational distribution of respondents indicating that about 46% of the respondents was involved in trading, followed by 32% of the respondents involve in farming, then 9% that are civil servants, 7% are teachers and only 2% were still students. The rest of the 4% left reported others while indicating house-wife, unemployed and artisans mostly. Figure 3 shows a graphical representation of the result.
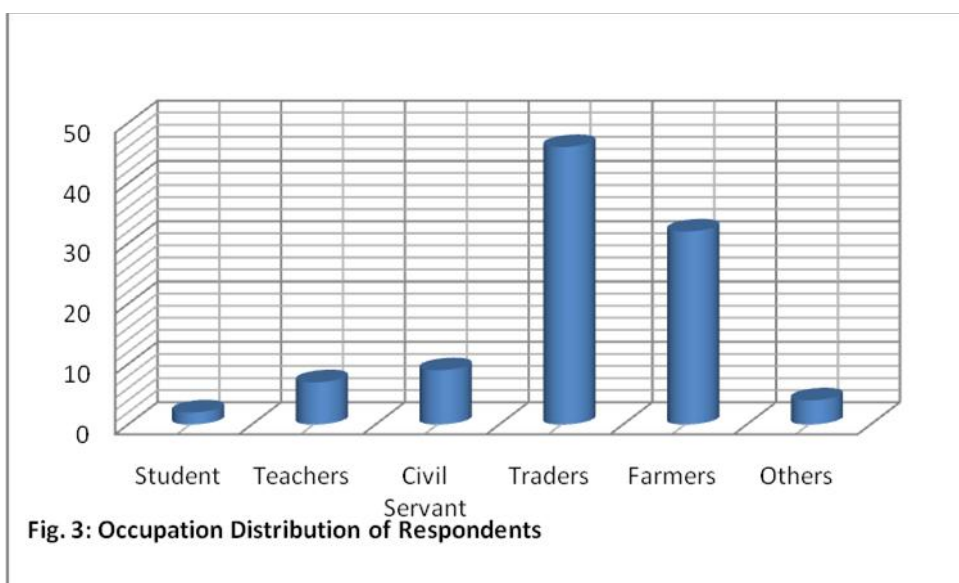

Fig. 3: Occupation Distribution of Respondents

Table 4: Marital Status Distribution of Respondents

Marital status	Frequency	(%)
Single	12	12
Married	88	88
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2018

Table 4presents the marital status distribution of respondents. The result shows that majority of the respondents were married (88%) while the rest of 12% were reported to be single. The implication of the large number of married people in this study is that respondents were able to give other relevant information about the households. Those that were single may have come from the category of respondents who were care givers and not the mother of the sick child. Figure 4 presents a graphical representation of the result.
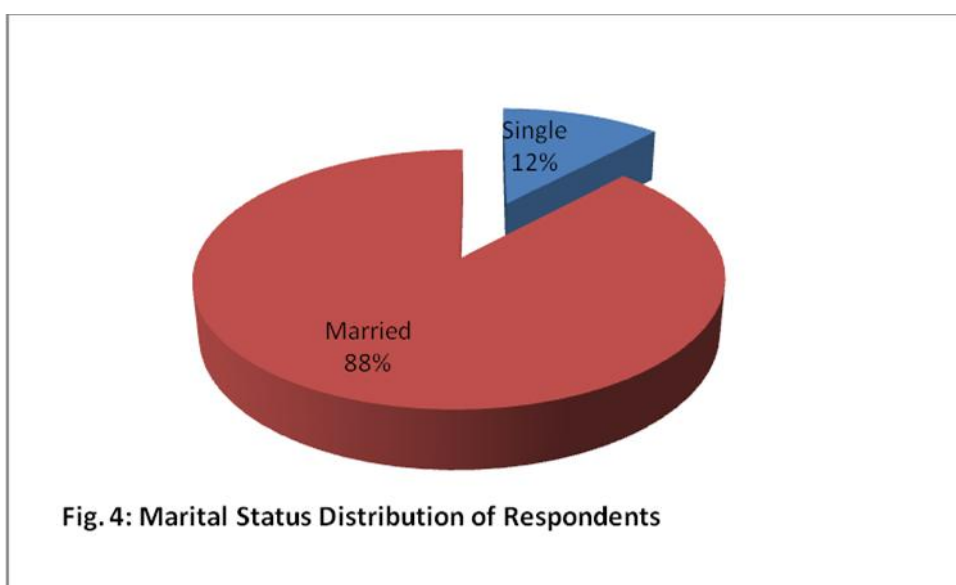

Fig. 4: Marital Status Distribution of Respondents

Table 5: Number of children

Number of children	Frequency	(%)
1	16	16
2	12	12
3	28	28
4 and above	44	44
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2018

The result in table 5 presents the number of children which the respondents possess. The result shows that majority of the respondents that participated in the study has four (4) children and above as the result reports about 44% of the participants. About 28% disclosed having 3 children, while 16% has only 1 child and the rest of 12% were reported having 2 children. Figure 5 presents a graphical representation of the result.
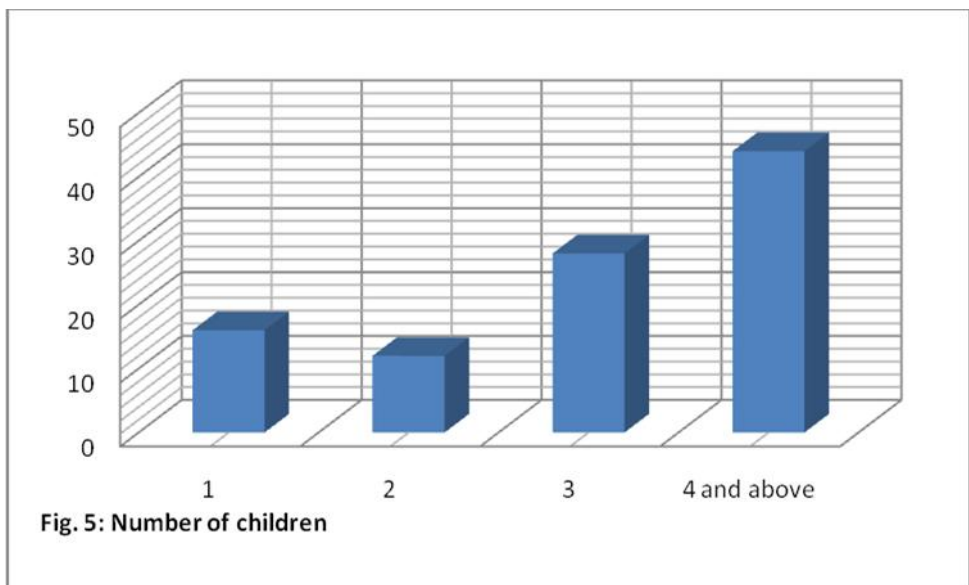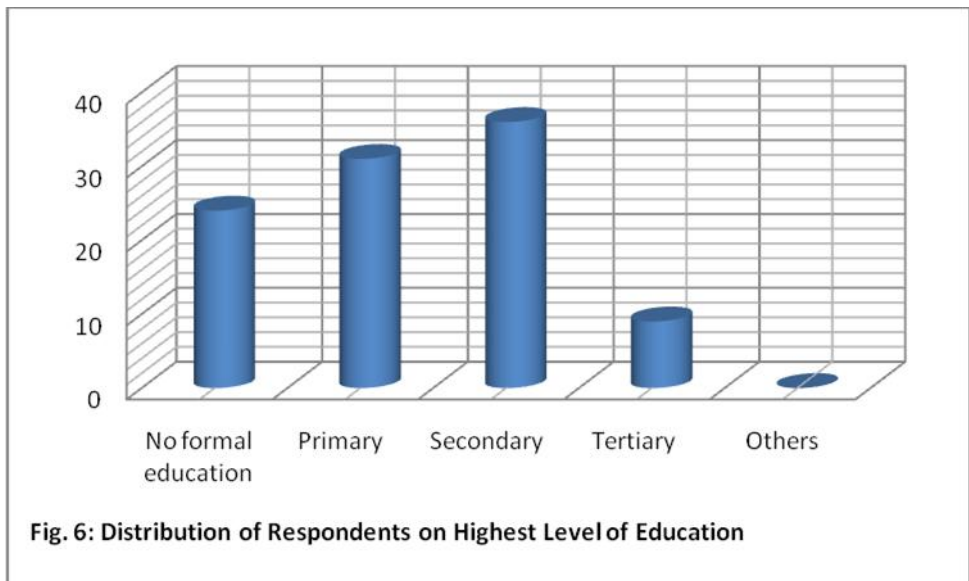
Fig. 5: Number of children

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents on Highest Level of Education

Level of education	Frequency	(%)
No formal education	24	24
Primary	31	31
Secondary	36	36
Tertiary	9	9
Others	0	0
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2018

The result in table 6 presents the distribution of respondents on highest level of education. The table shows that about 36% of the respondents possessed secondary school certificate as highest level of education, then followed by 31% with primary school certificate, then 24% with no formal education and only about 9% were reported having tertiary education. The graphical presentation in figure 6 presents a clearer picture of the result.

Fig. 6: Distribution of Respondents on Highest Level of Education

Discussion

Result from the study revealed that the level of awareness on primary health care service among women of child bearing age in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria was high. There is also a finding that the women of child bearing age are aware of the primary health care services on promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures to the people in the community in the study area. They are also aware of primary health care as the key to attaining health for all state members of world health organization. They are also aware that primary health care services as the first point of contact with the health care services that an individual makes and that primary health care service is the continued process of empowering individuals, families and communities to takes charge and responsibilities of their own health.

The study was able to determine the extent women of child bearing age utilize the primary health care services in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. The finding from the study discloses that the majority of the people visit the hospital when they need health care services, followed by chemist stores. In this location of study, primary health care center is the least utilized by the women of child bearing age in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. Further findings shows that primary health care center are mostly utilized by the respondents only for the purpose of immunization. It is also obtained from the findings disclosed that majority of the women of child bearing age attend primary health care services for 1 – 3 times in a year. In this study, findings showed that majority of women of child bearing age do not receive health care at primary health care in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria.

The key finding from the study discloses that lack of major facilities in the health centers like syringe and needles, cold chain box for preservation and refrigeration affect the utilization of primary health care services by women of child bearing age. It was also discovered that lack of community participation as matters relating to health militate against the utilization of primary health care services was the second factor identified influencing the utilization of these health care services then lack of some inter-sectorial collaboration has led to limited inter-sectorial co-operation for health care services and finally, bad roads were pointed also affecting the utilization of primary health care services.

This study is in line with the findings of (Agofure and Sarki, 2017).

The various ways of improving utilization of primary health care services in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA in Imo State, Nigeria identified by women of child bearing age are ranked from the most effective indicating that employing good skilled personnel management of primary health care, then erecting building of health care centers near to the people, provision of adequate fund and construction of good roads by the government will help to improve utilization of primary health care services.

Conclusion

Majority of the respondents agreed to the view that there is a good level of awareness on primary health care service among women of child bearing age in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria.That the most preferred destination when health care is needed has always been to the hospital, followed by chemists before primary health center. Primary health center is mostly used for the purpose of immunization among women of child bearing age in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. The study also showed that majority of women of child bearing age attends primary health care services for 1 – 3 times in a year. The study shows that women of child bearing age do not receive health care at primary health care in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria.Lack of some facilities in the health centers like syringe and needles, cold chain box for preservation and refrigeration is the major factor influencing the utilization of primary health care services. Major ways proposed by women of child bearing age in improving utilization of primary health care services in Akwu Ibeku, Aboh Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria are provision of good skilled personnel management of primary health care, building of health centers near to the people can help to improve the utilization of primary health care services, provision of adequate fund and construction of good roads by the government can help to improve utilization of primary health care services in the community.

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