

The study investigated the predictors of women's perception of intra partum care in a secondary health facility in Calabar Metropolis. Four research questions and one hypothesis guided the study.

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. Simple random sampling technique was used to select age and women's perception with x

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in Ghana [9]. Findings showed that 143 out of 183 nursing mothers claimed that the intra-partum care had to do with all the nursing intervention and care employed by midwives in order to ensure that pregnant women deliver their children successfully. More than half (62.4%) of the participants claimed that labour pains management through medical and nursing care strategies is one of the ways by which midwives deliver quality intra-partum care. Few of the participants (31.8%) acknowledged that the use of anaesthesia was part of intra-partum care practices that ensured safe delivery.

In a study on knowledge and attitude of women toward focused ANC in Cross Rivers State, findings showed that 81.2% of clients had adequate knowledge of intra-partum care [10]. Thus, this knowledge translated to their willingness and acceptance rate of intra-partum care from traditional birth attendance. Lundgren, investigated maternal satisfaction and pain control in women selecting natural childbirth [9]. It was discovered that many women who choose natural childbirth for labour ultimately requested epidural analgesia to control labour pain as an intra-partum care strategy. Findings from the study showed that 117 out of 183 nursing mothers had adequate knowledge of intra-partum care. The intra-partum care that were known to these women were: Monitoring of uterine contractions by nurses, determination of fetal position by abdominal palpation, monitoring of contractions by palpation, monitoring of fetal heart rate, monitoring of amniotic fluid and management of labour pain.

Attitude of health care workers and women's perception of intra-partum care: In a randomized study about promoting childbirth companions in South Africa Brown et al., it was reported that most pregnant women claimed that health care workers with negative attitudes always make them perceive intra-partum care to be a feared experience with lots of negative consequences, psychologically and physically [7]. Statistically, it was proven that a significant correlation existed between the attitude of health care workers and the perception of intra-partum care among pregnant women. In another study on factors influencing rising maternal mortality rates in China between 1998 and 2008, results showed that there was a significant relationship between attitude of healthcare workers and women's perception of intra-partum care in their study [7]. It was discovered that pregnant women tend to perceive intra-partum care to be very effective and less painful whenever they are delivered by health care workers with positive attitude. Ojong et al., reported that although perception of intra-partum care was good among women, the kind of attitude skillful midwives/nurses portray before pregnant determined the kind of perception of intra-partum care that may exist among pregnant women [10]. In a study on FANC in South East Nigeria posited that the perception of intra-partum care among pregnant women was basically determined by the attitude of health care workers who are in charge of caring for them [11]. They stated that the more nice and kind health care workers are to pregnant women, the more positive pregnant women become satisfied about the process of child birth and the quality of care they are receiving during child birth.

Educational status and women's perception of intra-partum care: In their study on factors influencing rising maternal mortality rates in China between 1998 and 2008 opined that acceptance of intra-partum care from the hands of medical professional was higher among the educated women than women with low educational status [7,12]. Also opined that clients with higher educational level had a good perception of intra-partum care than those with just secondary educational level.

is also agrees with Omah, who investigated the relationship between formal education and the perception of intra-partum care among

pregnant women in Nigeria [13]. He found out that formal education was significantly correlated to perception and attitude pregnant women have concerning intra-partum. Study in Nigeria, stated that among the Yoruba women, age, misery, anger, misconception and anxiety were some factors associated with women's perception of intra-partum care [14]. In support of the above, Ojong et al., findings showed that 81.2% of client would only accept intra-partum care from traditional birth attendance and perception was influenced by negative impact of cultural factors [10]. These factors included their traditional beliefs that TBAs were more experienced and caring in delivering intra-partum care. Statistically, a relationship between the age of pregnant women and their perception of intra-partum care.

Target population

The target population consisted of all the women of child bearing age attending antenatal clinic in the secondary health facility within the period of the research from January 2019-March 2019. These were all the women who were either nursing mothers or mothers of at least one who were found in General Hospital. This is summed up to 312.

Accessible population

The accessible population was made up of women found in postnatal ward who had registered with the Antenatal Clinic of General Hospital. These summed up to 175.

Sample and sampling technique

Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents while the sample size was calculated using Taro Yamane's sample size formula as shown below. Target population was 312 and the sample size is 175.

$$= \frac{n}{1 + (e^2)}$$

Instrument for data collection

A self-developed validated questionnaire was used to elicit data from the respondents. The instrument was divided into five (5) sections. Section A sought information on respondents socio demographic data, Section B is on women perception on intra-partum care, Section C is women's knowledge on intra-partum care, Section D attitude of healthcare workers on women's perception of intra-partum care, Section E is on educational status and women's perception on intra-partum care.

Validity of instrument

Face validity and content validity of the research instrument was established

FÌÈGGÌ^æ:•	17	JÈÌ
23-27 years	36	GÈÌ
GÌÈHGÌ^æ:•	ÍJ	33.7
33-37 years	33	FÌÈJ
HÌÈIGÌ^æ:•	GÌ	16
IHà^æ:•kæ}ákæà [ç^	2	1.1
Married	ÍJ	HJÈI
Single	I Í	25.7
Separated	36	GÈÌ
Yià [, ^à	23	13.1
Divorced	2	1.1
Christianity	167	JÈÌ
Islam	3	1.7
Traditional	5	GÈJ
Educational qualification		
Primary	GJ	
Secondary	ìF	I ÌÈH
Tertiary	65	37.1
€FÌTæ:ì	ì Ì	I JÈÌ
€I.R^ }	ìH	I ÌÈI
7 children and above	5	GÈJ

Socio-demographic data of respondents (n=175).

Research question one

What are women's perception (opinion) toward intra-partum care in secondary health facility in, Calabar? (Table 2).

By application of weighted mean scores, results in Table 2 showed that 90 (51.4%) respondents with individual mean scores that were 5.2 were considered to possess positive perception of intra-partum care. Also, 85 (48.6%) respondents with individual mean scores that were <5.2 were considered to possess negative perception of intra-partum care.

Research question two

How does the knowledge on intra-partum in uence women's perception of intra-partum care in secondary health facility in, Calabar? (Table 3).

e results in Table 3 showed that 136 (77.7%) pregnant women's with mean scores 9 were considered to have good knowledge with positive perception of intra-partum care while 39 (22.3%) pregnant women's with mean scores <5 were considered to have poor knowledge with poor perception of intra-partum care.

Research question three

How does attitude of health care workers a ects women's perception of intra-partum care in secondary health facility in Calabar Metropolis? (Table 4).

Positive	⁻Á5.2	JÈÌ FÈID
Negative	<5.2	ì ÌÈI ÈID

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Good	⁻Á9	136 (77.7)
Poor	<5	HJÁçGGÈHD

Knowledge on intra-partum and women's perception of intra-partum care (n=175).

Classification of level of attitude		
Positive attitude	⁻Á6.7	FÈÌ ÁçÌ FÈFD
Negative attitude	<6.7	ì ÌÈI ÈJD

Attitude of health care workers and women's perception of intra-partum care (n=175).

Consequently, by application of weighted mean scores, results in Table 4 showed that the attitude of health workers had a 61.1% positive in uence on 107 pregnant women's perception of intra-partum care while it had a 38.9% negative in uence on 68 pregnant women's perception of intra-partum care.

Research question four

What is the in uence of educational status on women's perception of intra-partum care in secondary health facility in Calabar? (Table 5).

e above results on educational attainment and women`s perception of intra partum care revealed that, majority of the women 40 (22.9) with tertiary education had positive perception. While most women 44 (25.2) with secondary education had negative perception towards intra partum care. One would expect the women with primary education to have negative perception but reverse is the case in this result.

Hypothesis one

Table 6 shows that the X² calculated of 23.82 was greater than the X² critical of 11.07 with 5 degrees of freedom and P-value of 0.025. is implies that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative is upheld.

efore, there is a signi cant relationship between age and women perception of intra-partum care in Secondary health facility in Calabar.

