



OPF.5

Preference and associated factors for the caesarean section as a mode of delivery among primi-pregnant mothers attending selected antenatal clinics of Bandaragama Medical Officer of Health in Sri Lanka

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Background: Increasing caesarean section (CS) rate is observed in the world, which has a significant negative impact on the health of pregnant mother, family and the economy of country.

Objective: To describe the preference, and associated factors for the caesarean section as a mode of delivery among primi pregnant mothers attending antenatal clinics of the medical officer of health (MOH) area of Bandaragama

Methods: This study was a descriptive cross-sectional study among 238 primi pregnant mothers who were in their second and third trimester and who would undergo planned caesarean section (those

with severe heart diseases, pelvic deformities, HIV and multiple pregnancies) attending antenatal clinics in Bandaragama MOH area. They were selected by systematic random sampling method. A pre-tested interviewer-administrated questionnaire was used. Associated factors of preferred mode of delivery were determined using Chi-squared test. Significance level was set at 5%.

Results: Response rate was 90% (n=217). Prevalence of preferred mode of delivery for caesarean section was 12% (n=26). Factors significantly associated with caesarean section were high maternal age (p<0.05), being Sinhalese (p<0.05), private job sector (p<0.05) and monthly income more than Rs. 40,000 (p<0.05). There was no significant association of preferred mode of delivery with period of gestation, having planned pregnancy, body mass index and channelling an obstetrician in the private sector (p>0.05).

Conclusions & Recommendations: As the preferred mode of delivery, caesarean section is significantly associated with high maternal age, being a Sinhalese, private job sector and monthly income more than Rs. 40,000. Health education interventions are recommended to educate pregnant mothers in reducing the caesarean section rate in Sri Lanka.

Key words: *pregnant mothers, caesarean section, preferred mode of delivery*