**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Nigeria’s maternal mortality rate is considered to be one of the highest in the world This is as a result of widespread ignorance, harmful cultural practices, limited access to health service and low status of women. Nigeria remains a patriarchal society where men continue to dominate in all spheres of women’s lives. Evidence shows that most rural women do not patronize orthodox health care services. The low status of women may limit their access to economic resources, basic education, and also affect their ability to make decisions, including decisions related to their health. There is need to determine whether the non utilization of maternal health services is associated with women status. This study examined the association between women educational level, women decision making autonomy, socioeconomic status and utilisation of maternal health care services in primary health care centres in Nando, Anambra State.

**METHOD**

A cross sectional descriptive design was conducted in Nando Anambra state, Southeast Nigeria. Data were collected from 500 women of child bearing age (15-49years) from Nando community using an interviewer administered questionnaire. The links between women autonomy, educational status, socioeconomic status and utilization of maternal health services were examined. All analyses were performed using the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 18.

FINDINGS

The major findings showed that 71.5% utilised antenatal care services while 44.4% utilised delivery healthcare services; 40.2% of the women took decisions jointly with their husbands while 32.4% took decisions alone on utilization of antenatal care services. As regards utilisation of delivery care services, 39% took decisions alone while 36.5% took decisions jointly with their husbands on where to have their babies. Statistical significant associations were found between women decision making autonomy, educational level, socioeconomic status and utilization of maternal health care services ( p=<**0.05).** Specifically, the higher the educational level of respondents, the higher the utilization of maternal health care services. Similarly, the least poor and the poor utilised maternal health care services more than the very poor and poorest socio economic status group.

CONCLUSION

Factors that influence the utilization of maternal health care services include women decision making autonomy, educational status and economic status. In order to achieve sustainable development goal, there is need to empower women educationally and economically. Interventions to increase utilization of maternal health services should be targeted at individual and community levels.