**SAFE MOTHERHOOD: THE INFLUENCE OF ANTE-NATAL EDUCATION ON PREGNANT WOMEN’S ABILITY IN EARLY DETECTION OF OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS**

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**Abstract**

Close to six hundred thousand women aged 15 to 49 years die each year due to complications arising from pregnancy and childbirth globally. For every woman who dies, several others suffer serious complications which may stay with them over the course of their lives (World Health Organization, 2005). To forestall maternal mortality and complications, a flagship programme called the Safe Motherhood Programme was launched in 1987 to start ante-natal clinics and later focused was introduced. These clinics offer practical knowledge and guidance to mothers throughout their term of their pregnancies. This paper seeks to investigate the influence of ante-natal education on the pregnant woman’s ability in early detection of obstetric complications. The paper seeks to achieve this objective via the examination of the quality of ante-natal education provided to women in antenatal clinics and assessing the knowledge base of pregnant women regarding obstetric problems. The study focuses on pregnant women in the Ayawaso and La Dadekotopon Metropolitan Assembly to reach this objective. The study adopts the Quantitative investigative research style and it employs a convenience sampling technique to gather data. Data will be collected from 500 women from ante-natal and postnatal on obstetric complications and their ability to detect them. T-tests and regression analysis will be performed in examining the influence of education on obstetric problems detection, as well as influence of information from external sources on pregnant women’s ability to detect obstetric problems. The study suggests expected findings to show that women receiving ante-natal education experience better pregnancy outcomes than those who do not receive ante-natal education, and also that, antenatal education minimizes pregnancy and delivery complications. The study expects to also find ante-natal education to have a significant effect on knowledge change in pregnant women, implying they become more competent in identifying changes relating to their pregnancy due to the new knowledge acquired. These findings, if same as expected, indicate a positive correlation between the quality of antenatal education and the pregnant mother’s ability to detect obstetric problems, but not much work has been done in this area especially in Ghana. More empirical work is recommended in the area of quality of antenatal education given to pregnant women at the antenatal clinic.