**Adolescent mothers want easy access to antenatal care services in the Hohoe Municipality of Ghana: Findings from a Participatory Action Research**

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**Background:** Adolescent pregnancy-related complications are the leading cause of mortality among females 15 to 19-years of age. Adolescent mothers are at a greater risk of, puerperal endometritis, eclampsia and systemic infections as compared to older women. Antenatal care (ANC) offers opportunities to diagnose and treat such complications, improving pregnancy outcomes for both mothers and babies.

To achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030, a lot more needs to be done in reducing pregnancy in adolescence and maternal deaths. Deaths during childbirth in developing countries are 14 times higher than their developed counterparts and progress at teenage pregnancy eradication is slow.

**Methods:** Participatory action research (PAR) is a research approach, that systematically collects empirical data and analyzes it for the purpose of taking action to effect change. Using this approach, we explored adolescent mothers’ knowledge, preferences and components of ANC that required improvement to enhance sustainable maternal and child health services.

The study was carried out in the Hohoe Municipality in partnership with the Hohoe Municipal Hospital. Facilitators from 4 communities supported participants recruitment and data collection. Six focused group discussions were held with adolescent mothers, 20 in-depth interviews with pregnant adolescents and 6 midwives were also interviewed. Recorded data was transcribed, coded, analyzed thematically, interpreted and consequently mapped through participant and facilitator evaluation and discussion.

**Results:** Findings revealed that adolescent mothers experience financial barriers that limited their access to antenatal care. Health care provider’s unfriendly attitude and poor resourced health facilities non-equipped health facilities are some of the barriers noted for accessing health care services among adolescent mothers.

**Conclusions:** Broad stakeholder consultation and engagements in designing community based antenatal care services can help improve access and limit barriers to adolescent antenatal care services. Improving healthcare professionals’ training, access to medication, laboratory services, and enhanced provider-mother focused interaction are vital for improving adolescent motherhood health outcomes. Health facility staff need to prioritize adolescent mothers unmet antenatal care needs in order to ensure continual improvements at the community and facility level.