

Assessment of knowledge and practice of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) on maternal health in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat



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INTRODUCTION



The role of female health workers or frontline health workers (FHW) in healthcare delivery system is considered unavoidable to meet up the millennium goal.

FHWs work exclusively in community and serve as first contact point of the community, they are connectors between healthcare consumers and service provider to promote health among the marginalized and vulnerable groups of the community.

Improving maternal health has always been an essential element for achieving health for all. One of the key components of the National Rural Health Mission is to provide every village in the country with a trained female community health activist ASHA or Accredited Social Health Activist. Selected from the village itself and accountable to it, the ASHA is trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system.

The role of ASHA in healthcare delivery system is to meet the universal goal of health system. ASHA is expected to ensure the antenatal, natal and postnatal services to women, counseling on family planning and nutrition, safe abortion, escort or accompany the pregnant female to hospital for institutional delivery, to create awareness on institutional delivery, potential danger signs and complications during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum period and to mobilize the community toward increase utilization of the existing health services.

This study was planned to assess the knowledge and practice of ASHA on maternal health specially her knowledge and practice on Ante natal checkups. This study was carried out in one block of Bhavnagar district of Gujarat.

Rationale



- High MMR is one of the black spot on Indian health system and reducing it to least is the main purpose of almost all the health initiatives taken by GOI. FHWs play the key role at the grass root level, they are the first contact point to the village/rural/marginalized population and that's why they should be very active and well versed with the do's and don't for better health. This study was conducted to assess the knowledge, awareness of the ASHA workers regarding maternal health and the practices they do for it.

RESEARCH QUESTION



1. What are the roles and responsibilities of an ASHA and her knowledge about the maternal health?
2. What are the practices of ASHAs for ANC ?

OBJECTIVES



- To assess the knowledge and practice of ASHA worker on maternal health.
- To assess the knowledge of ASHA about her roles and responsibilities at the community level.

METHODOLOGY



- **Sample Size:** Sample size of the study is 130

- a. **Inclusion criteria:** All the ASHAs who have attended training on 1 to 5 and 6-7 module on ASHA.
- b. **Exclusion criteria:** ASHAs who were newly appointed and did not attend the trainings.

- **Sampling Technique:** The study area was selected by convenience.

- **Study Area:** This study was carried out in Bhavnagar Ghogha taluka in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat. The taluka is one of the poor performing talukas among all ten talukas of the district.

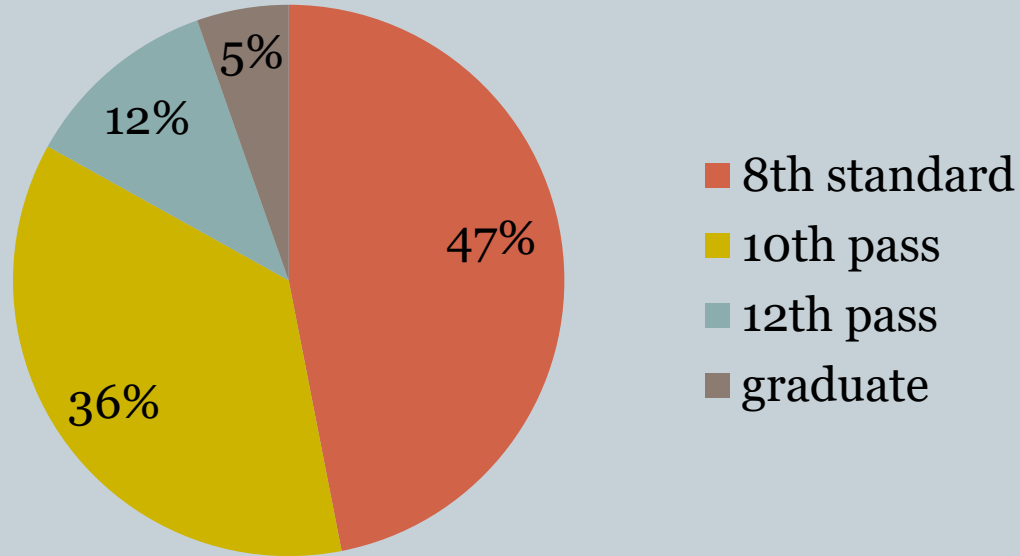


- **Study Period:** This study completed in 90 days i.e 3 months it started from 6th February 2018 and completed on 8th May 2018.
- **Data Collection:** Data was collected using a pretested semi structured questionnaire after taking the consent of the participants. Questionnaire had both closed ended and open ended questions.
- **Data Analysis:** Data was entered and analyzed using MS Excel.

FINDINGS

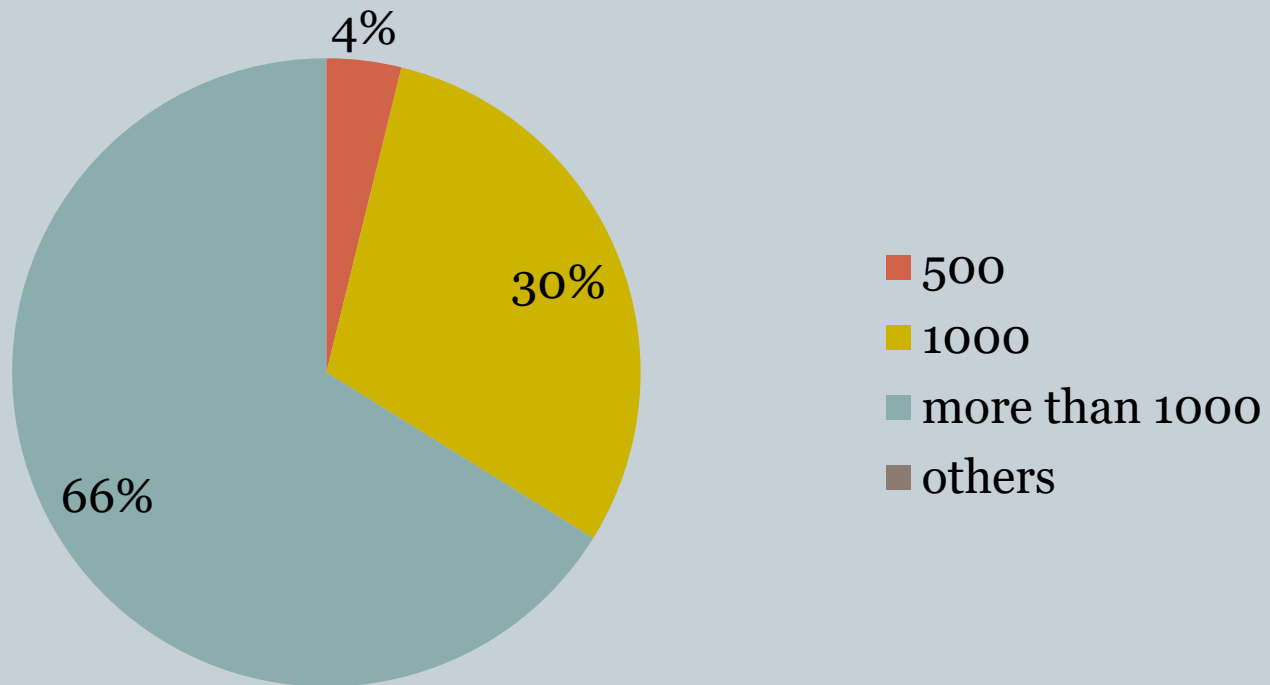


- Educational qualification of ASHAs: (N=130)



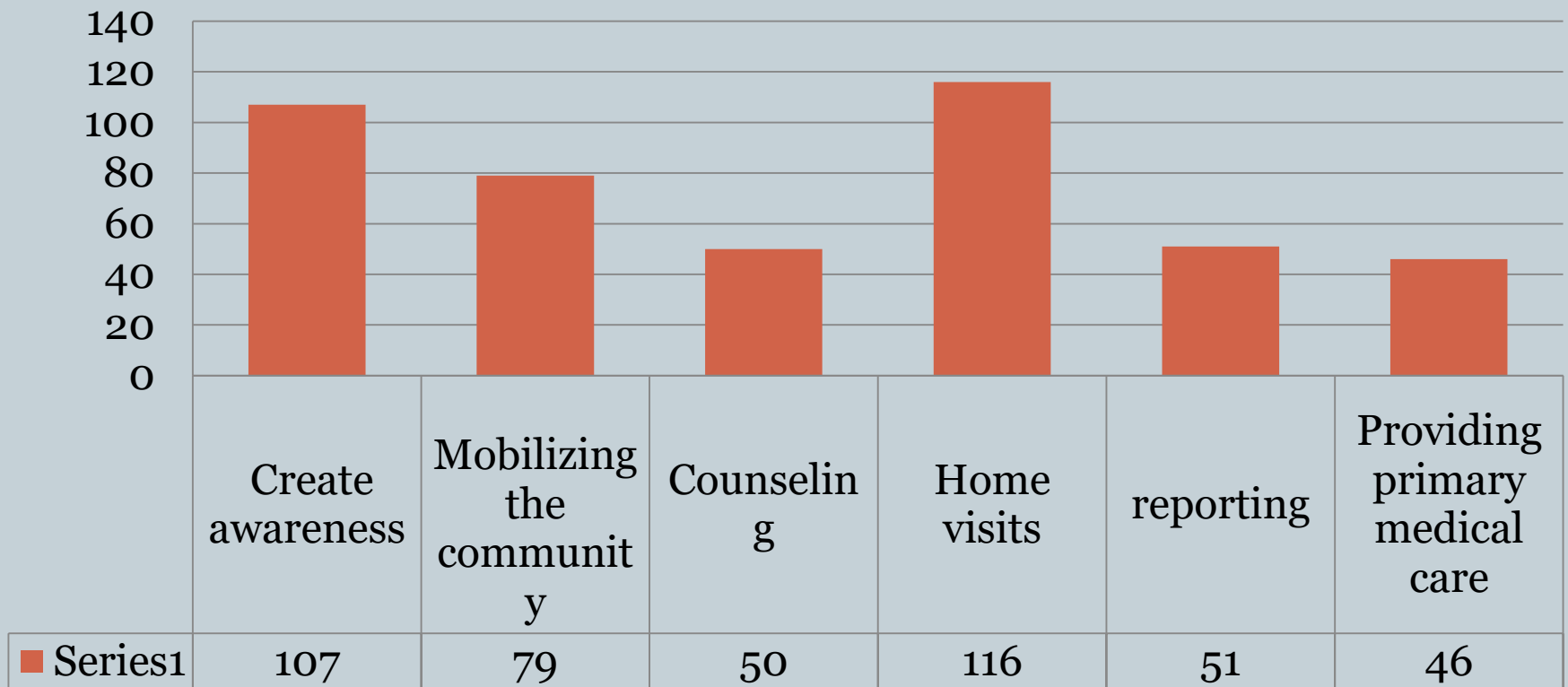


- Population served by ASHA:





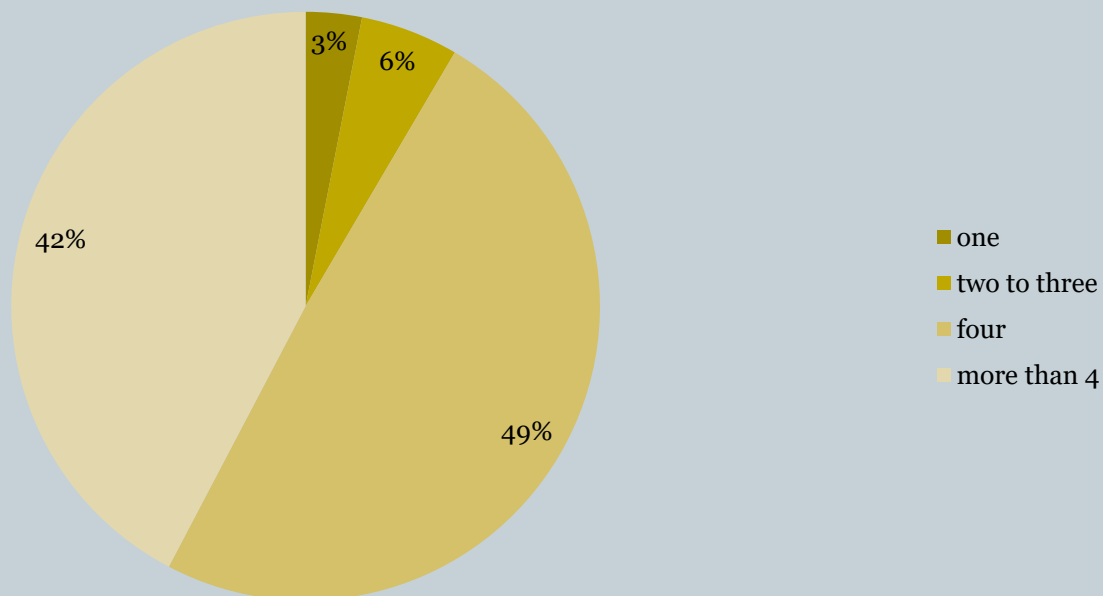
- Roles and responsibilities of ASHA: N=130





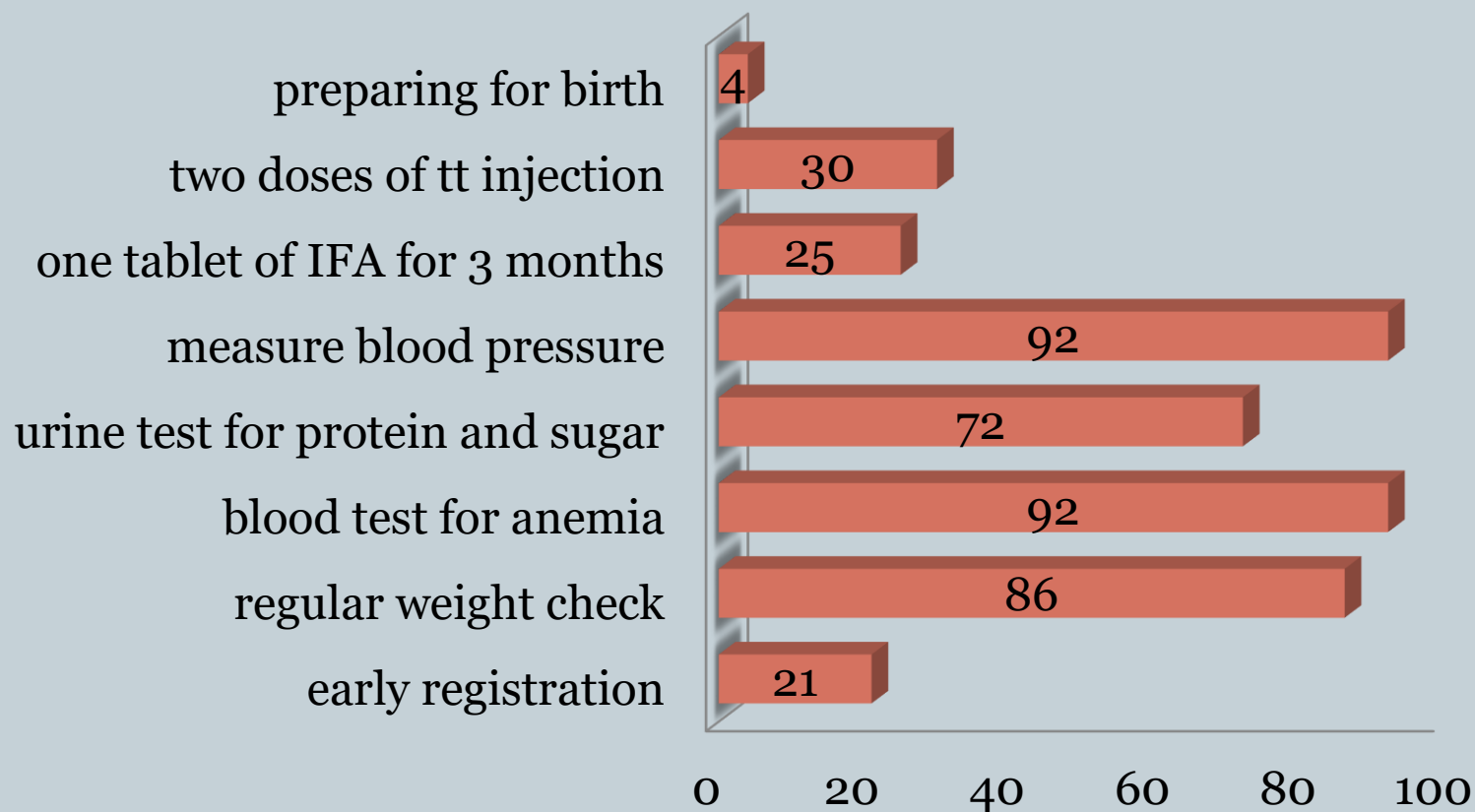
- Knowledge about Antenatal Care: N=130

No. of ANC Visits





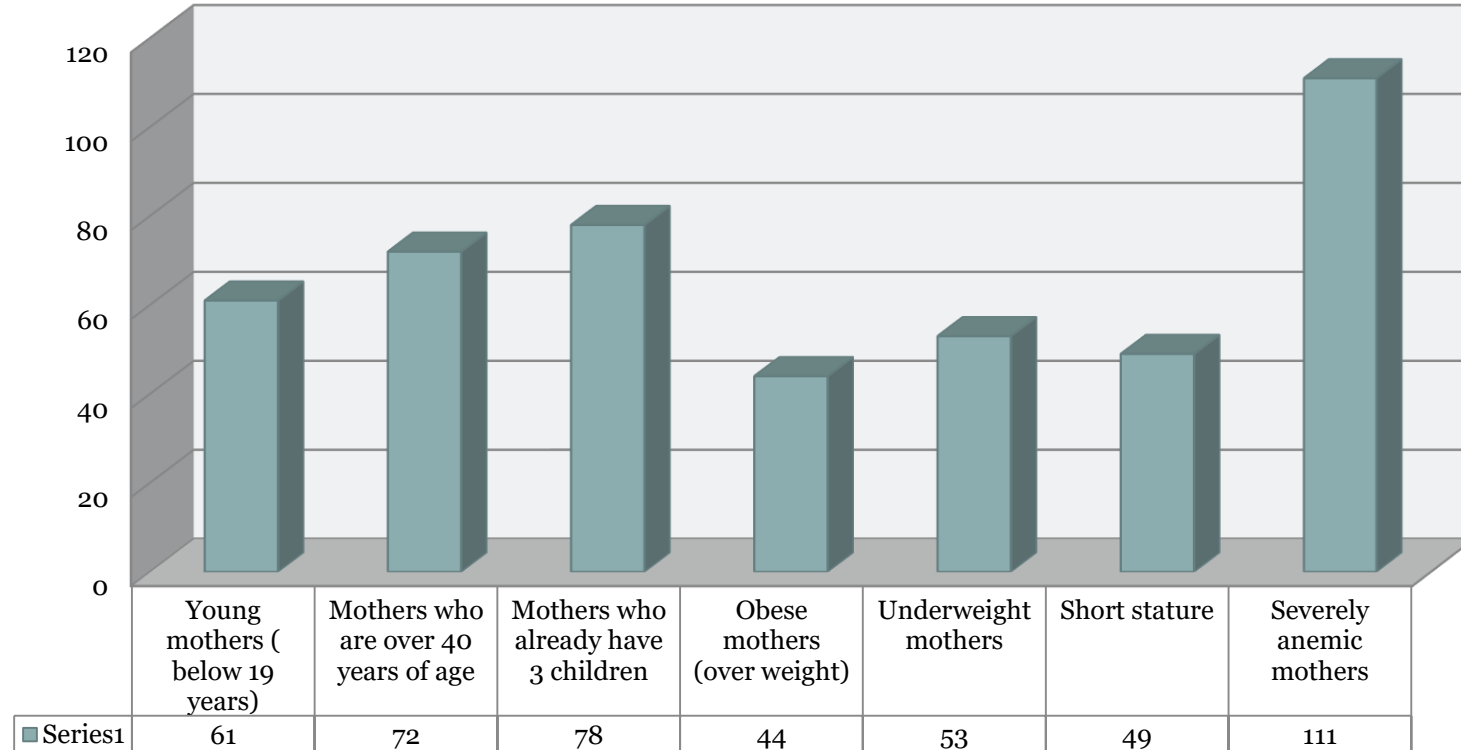
- Essential Components Of ANC: N=130





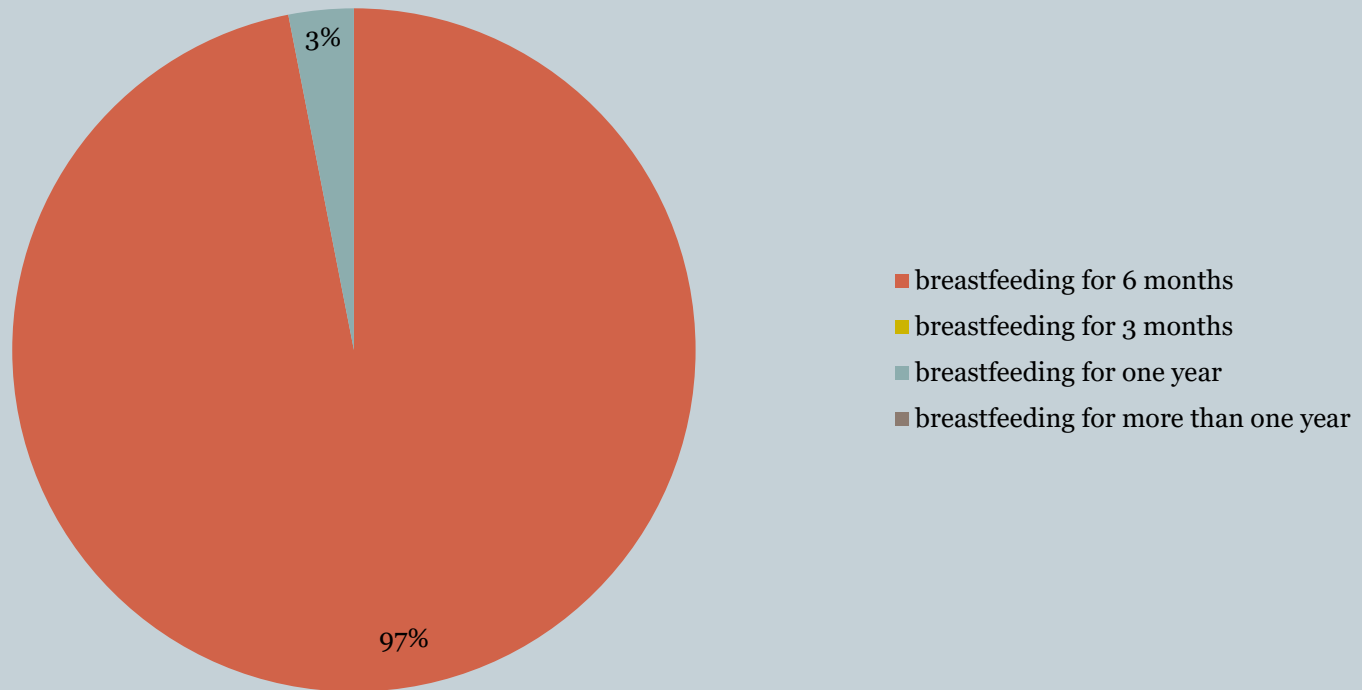
- Knowledge about high risk mother: N=130

High risk mother





- Knowledge about Exclusive breastfeeding:=130



KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEVERE ANEMIA



- It was a positive finding that all the ASHAs covered in the study were aware of the normal Hb count of a pregnant women. (10 to 14 g/dl)
- All the ASHAs were aware about the severely anemic mothers, those who have Hb less than 7 are considered as severely anemic.

Knowledge about IFA tablets consumption



No. of IFA tablets	No of respondents
less than 100	4
100 to 150	8
180	38
More than 200	80

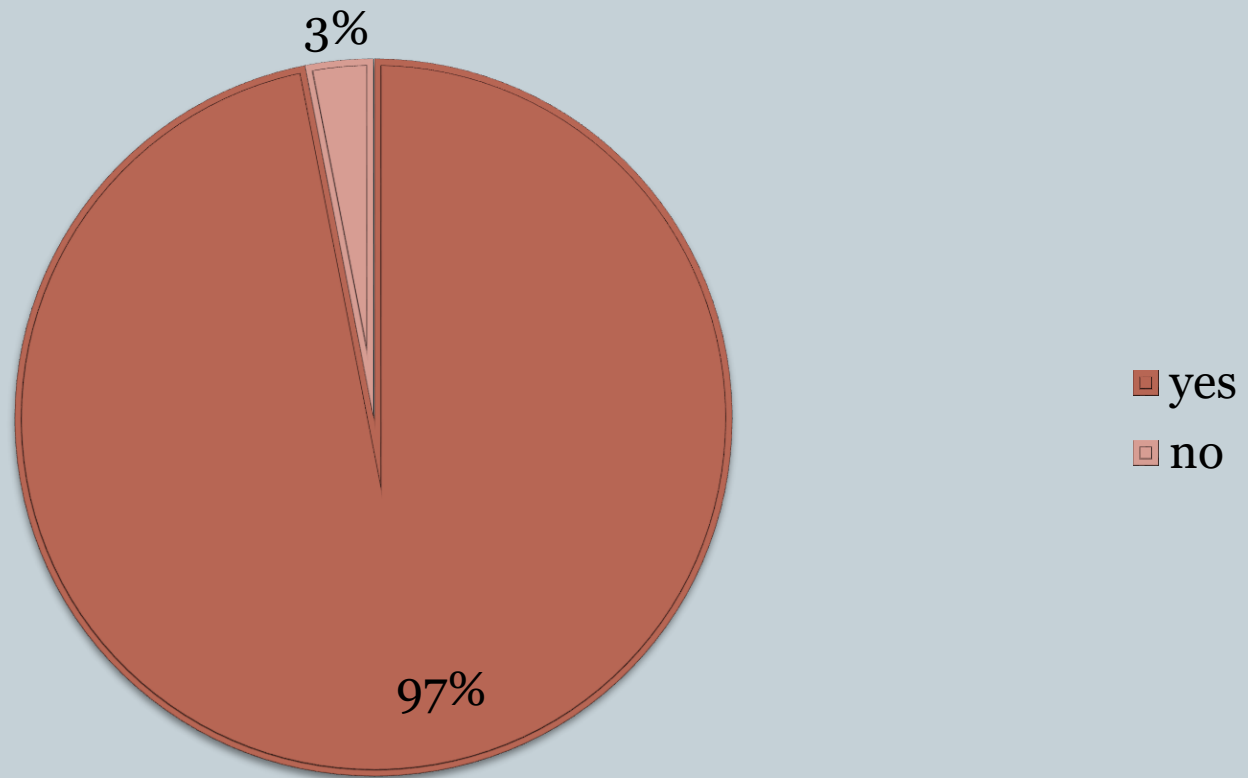
Knowledge about no. of TT Injections



No. of TT Injection	No of respondents
One	7
Two	123
Three	0
More than 3	0

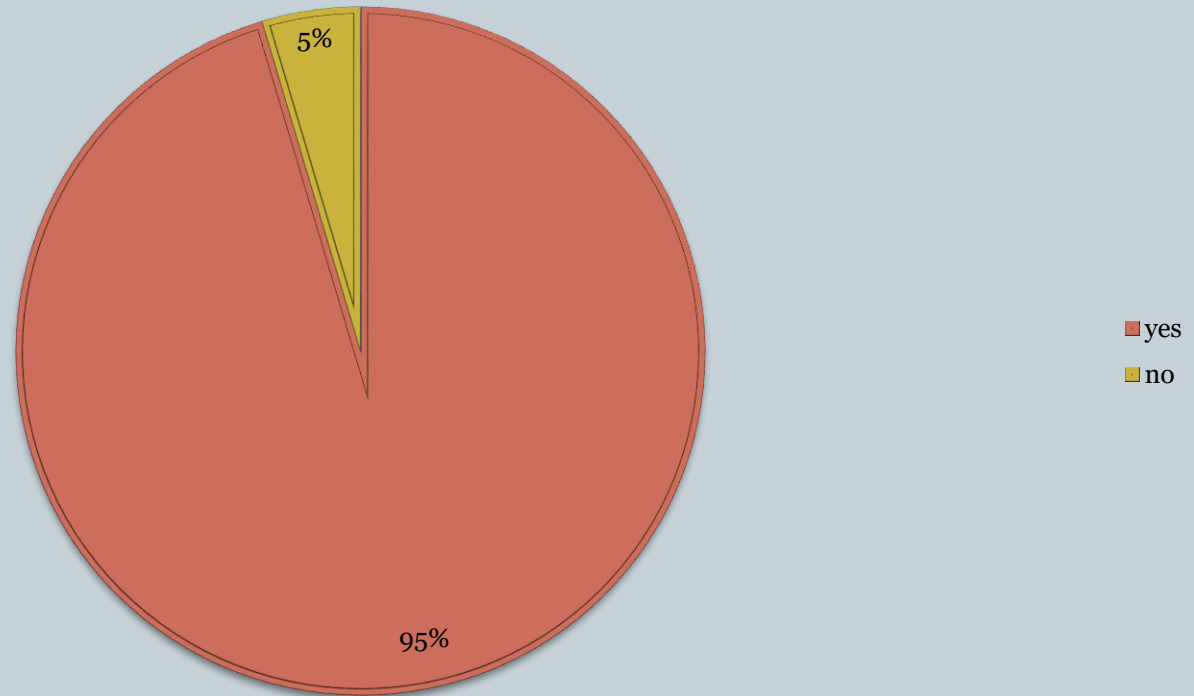


- Knowledge about LMP (Last menstrual period):





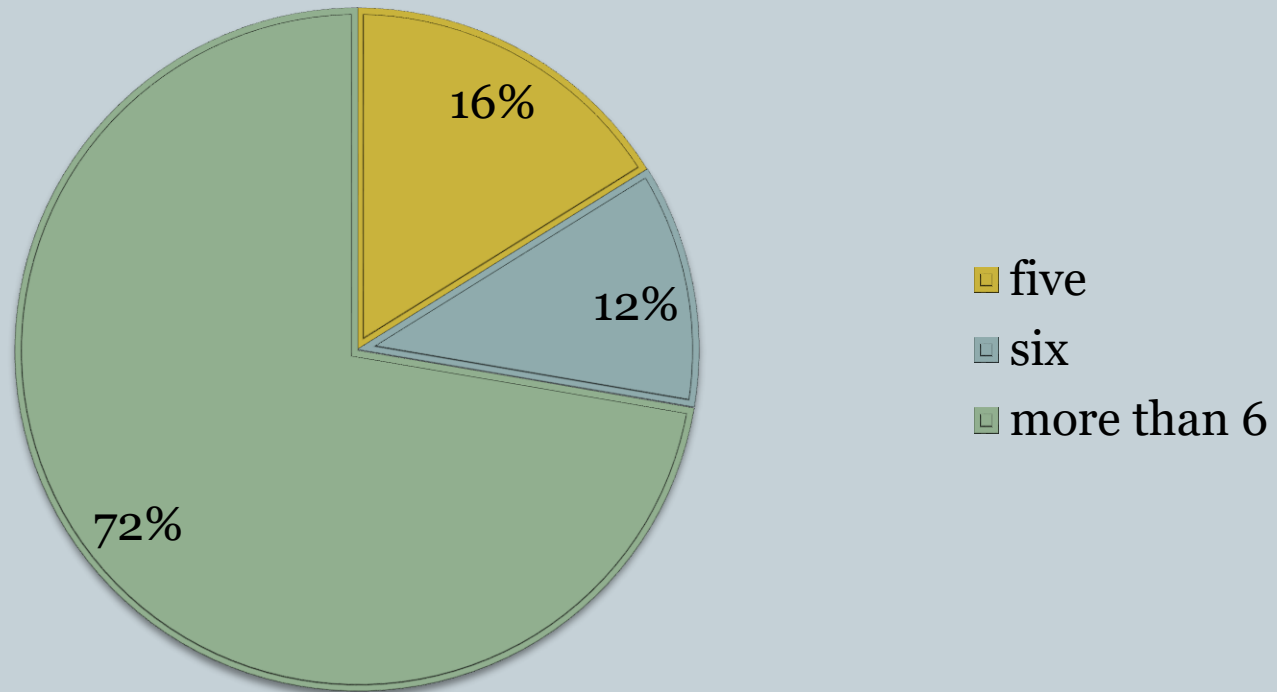
- Knowledge about EDD (Estimated delivery date):



Practices On ANC



- No. of home visits by an ASHA to a Pregnant women:





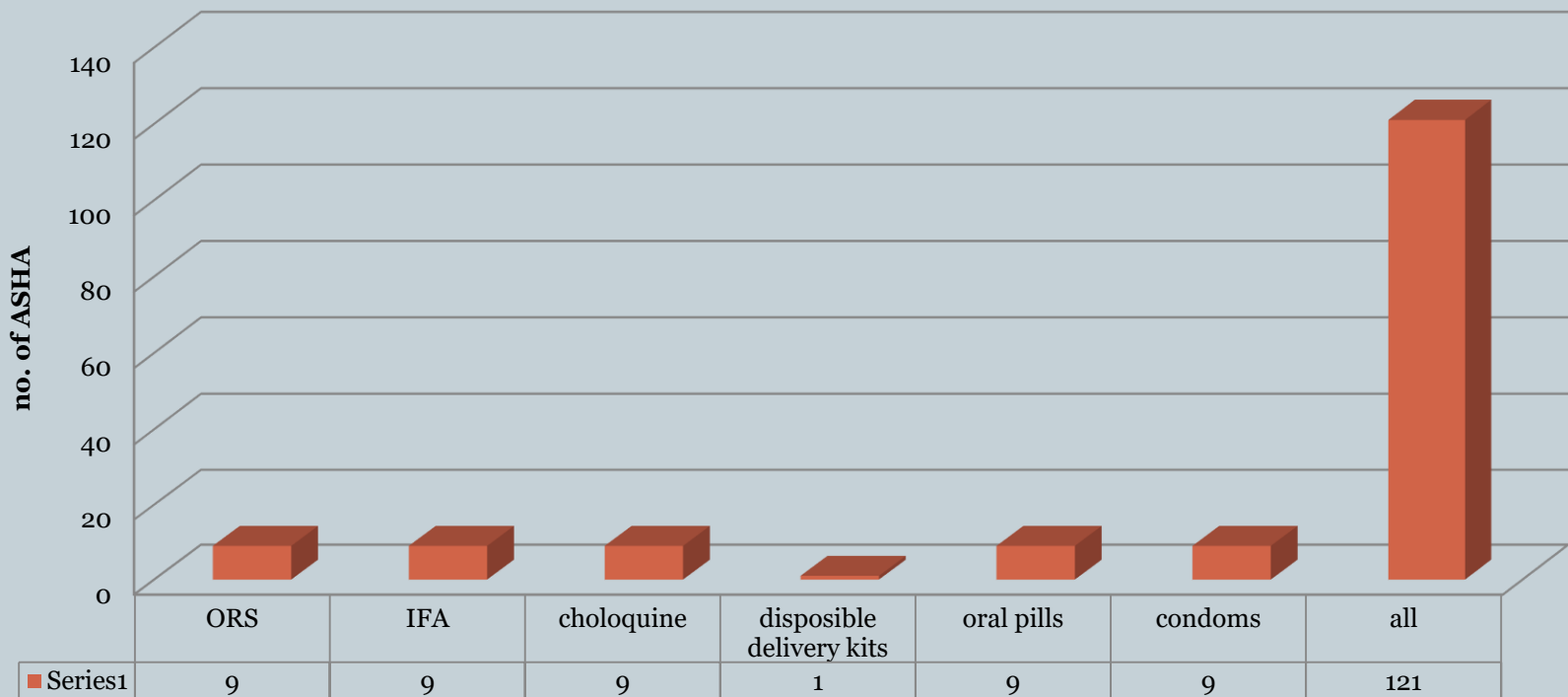
- **Register maintenance and record keeping**
N=130

s.no	Practices	No. of respondents
1	Maintenance of ANC register	126
2	Preparing birth micro plan	127
3	Make list of all pregnant women	121
4	Communicate the EDD with pregnant women and her family	126



- **Drug kit carried by ASHA**

Drugs and Consummables in Drug kit



CONCLUSION



- This study showed that the knowledge of ASHA worker is not up to the mark regarding all the danger signs and complications of pregnancy although when asked about the action they will take they said that they will refer the pregnant women to hospital for early treatment which is a very positive finding. ASHAs practices on maternal health was satisfactory they do keep the records and registers and they can calculate the EDD which efficiently make the birth microplans and they also share it with the family and MOs. Training is given to all the newly appointed ASHAs and once in a year they are given refreshers training but still there is not that efficiency among the ASHAs so a better supervision is needed and the training should be given more productively by the Medical Officers and NGOs should also be involved.

References



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THANK YOU