

Building Continuum of Laboratory Services for Pregnant Women in a Maternity Hospital: A Study

A Dissertation Synopsis

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Dr. Swarandeeep Kaur

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NUTAN P. JAIN

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Introduction:

For pregnant women, accessing laboratory services directly from the hospital emerges as the optimal choice, offering a seamless integration of care for maternity services. Ensuring the highest standards of quality and accuracy, the in-house laboratory facilities are specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of expectant mothers including home sample collection services. From a management standpoint, encouraging pregnant women to utilize hospital's laboratory services ensures streamlined processes, rigorous quality control, and seamless coordination for optimal care and outcomes. Studying how pregnant women access hospital laboratory services directly is crucial for making maternity care more seamless and personalized. Research shows that these services enhance patient satisfaction, help women follow prenatal testing guidelines more closely, and improve overall efficiency in managing maternal health.

Research Questions:

- What are the guidelines, and standard operating procedures of the laboratory services for pregnant women?
- What are the current trends of laboratory service in the hospital?
- What are the facilitating and hindering factors for the laboratory services?

Research Objectives:

- To review the guidelines and standard operating procedures of the hospital laboratory services meant for pregnant women.
- To conduct a trend analysis by taking secondary data from the hospital.
- To study the strengths, weakness, opportunity and threats (SWOT) of the Laboratory Services at the hospital.
- To develop strategies to enhance the laboratory services both in-house (hospital based) and home sample collection services.

Methods:

Study area: 50 Bedded Maternity hospital

Study respondents: All categories of Laboratory staff

The study will be conducted in the following steps:

Step 1: Review of the laboratory services guidelines

Step 2: Secondary data collection related to each of the laboratory services provided in the past 5 months with the approval of the hospital authorities. For example,

- capturing maximum and minimum time to conduct a test
- the list of tests to be done for a pregnant lady and at what intervals and their availability.

Step 3: Study standard duration to each of the services provided by observing as well as interviewing the laboratory staff

Step 4: Conduct trend analysis of each of the laboratory services provided for both in-house and home visits

Step 5: Study SWOT by interviewing with key stakeholders: nursing staff, doctors, technicians, quality team, pregnant women who have availed either of laboratory services

Step 6: Conduct SWOT analysis

Step 7: Develop alternative strategies

Data Collection methods and tools:

- Checklist to review the guidelines and SOPs
- Data sheet
- Interview schedule
- Key Informant Interview

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