



SUMMARY

Antenatal care provided at clinics and at home in the area of the Divisional Director of Health Services (DDHS) Haputala was evaluated with regard to its quantitative and qualitative aspects for retrospective data collected on routine antenatal care for the area was compared with the national data. It is focused that the indicators of antenatal care in the DDHS area Haputale were within the range of corresponding national figures.

Performance assessment through direct observation using checklist at activity level, was done to evaluate the quality of antenatal clinic care. A sample of 300 pregnant mothers (214 non-estate and 86 estate) was observed from a randomly selected sample of 15 clinics. Mothers were also interviewed using a questionnaire, with regard to their perception of the quality of care received at the clinic and to assess their knowledge of some elements of antenatal care.

The study finds that the quality of clinic care varied between estate and non - estate clinics. It also varied between health workers and the volunteers who assisted in clinic activities.

The factors found affecting the quality of antenatal clinic care could broadly be categorized as faulty equipment, non-availability of reagents and incorrect techniques/procedures.

Identification of risk factors, with appropriate intervention strategies and health education is in particular need of strengthening. The study showed that antenatal domiciliary care in the estate sector was almost non-existent. Appropriate elements of antenatal care were given to all mothers in the clinics, but quality of care varied. Eighty percent of mothers interviewed were of the opinion that they had received "good" or "very good" antenatal care at clinics. Fifty eight percent (58%) stated that they had received good domiciliary care.

The study also identified the role that medical administrators would need to play in order to improve the prevailing antenatal care services.

