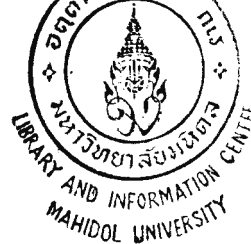


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**FACTORS AFFECTING UTILIZATION OF ANTENATAL CARE
SERVICES IN NEPAL**

BHARAT RAJ SHARMA

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**With compliments
of**

บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล
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The level of maternal mortality is very high in Nepal and the coverage and frequency of antenatal visits is very low. Maternal mortality may be caused by a complex interplay of socioeconomic and cultural factors. One of the reasons for such a high rate of maternal mortality may be attributed to the low coverage of ANC visits.

This study analyzed the effect of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of women, media exposure and contraception of women on antenatal care visits. In the present study, frequency of antenatal care visit was categorized as some visits, adequate visits and never visit. A multinomial logistic regression model was used to examine the net effect of each independent variable related to demographic characteristics, media exposure, knowledge of family planning and access to the health center and some of them were predictors of the antenatal care visits. Moreover, the findings clearly indicated that education, economic status of women, place of residence and access to health centers have an influence on antenatal care visits.

It is likely that education and the economic status of women are the best predictors of antenatal care visits in Nepal. Thus, it can be suggested that special attention and effort should be given to increase the educational opportunities for Nepalese women. Moreover, income-generating activities should be launched to improve up the economic status of women.