

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES OF JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA BENEFITS AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES IN SLUM AREAS

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ABSTRACT

In 2005, with the goal of reducing the numbers of maternal and neonatal deaths, the Government of India launched Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a conditional cash transfer scheme, to incentivize women to give birth in a health facility. But still the beneficiaries are missing the opportunities of JSY benefit due to various reasons. The objectives of the study were to explore the reasons of Missed opportunities of Janani Suraksha Yojana benefits among the beneficiaries and to suggest few recommendations depending upon the study results. It was a community based cross sectional study Conducted from Jan 2009 to Dec 2009 among 3212 women. The sample was collected by trained social workers in house to house activity. Out of 3212 women 360 (11.20%) were eligible for getting the benefit of Janani Suraksha Yojana. Among the 360 only 118 (32.78%) women got the benefit of JSY while, 242 (67.22%) missed the opportunity of getting JSY benefit due to Lack of information of JSY in 37.19% women followed by difficulty in getting the documents and card was not-filled in time by ANM were the common causes in 25.62% and 15.29% women respectively. finding shows the poor IEC efforts in the implementation of JSY, divulging most of the poor eligible women from their rights of JSY benefits. Hence, continuous IEC activity with active involvement of health service provider like ANM, MPW is needed.

Key Words: Missed opportunities, JSY, slum, beneficiaries, Knowledge

INTRODUCTION

The state of maternal, newborn, and child health in India is of global importance; in 2005, more than 78 000 (20%) of 387 200 maternal deaths,¹ and more than 1 million (31%) of 3.4 million neonatal deaths occurred in India. The maternal mortality ratio declined from about 520 per 100 000 live births in 1990 to nearly 290 per 100 000 in 2005 and the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 54 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 38 per 1000 in 2005. Despite this progress, the numbers of maternal and neonatal deaths remained high. In April, 2005, in response to the slow and varied progress in improvement of maternal and neonatal health, the Government of India launched Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY; translated as safe motherhood scheme)—a national conditional cash transfer scheme to incentivize women of low socioeconomic status

to give birth in a health facility. The ultimate goal of the programme is to reduce the number of maternal and neonatal deaths². JSY had an great impact in reducing maternal and newborn health morbidities and mortalities.^{3,4}

Even though JSY scheme is approaching towards the fulfillment of the goal of JSY still further review is needed on its various aspects.⁵ So an effort is tried to explore the reasons of not getting the JSY benefit in urban slum areas.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study type- Community based cross sectional study. Study period: Jan 2009 to Dec. 2009. Sample size: 3212 women delivered in the period during Jan 2008 to Dec. 2008 were included in the study. Study area: As the basic

objective of JSY scheme was focusing on vulnerable and women of lower socioeconomic status. It was decided to cover the slum areas of Solapur, Western Maharashtra. List of registered slums was taken from Municipal Corporation office. Total 127 registered slums were there in Solapur, covering a population about 3-4 Lakh. 50% of the slums were selected by lottery method for the study purpose covering population of 1.75 lakh from 60 slums. Listing of all deliveries occurred during Jan 2008 to Dec. 2008 was done by Social workers with the help of Anganwadi Workers. House to house activity was conducted with pre-tested and pre-deigned Performa. Every woman was taken for the study but the detail aspects of JSY were interviewed with woman who was eligible for JSY benefit. The data was analyzed by using SPSS software and the findings were presented into percentages.

Eligibility Criteria for JSY. ²

1. Women must be below poverty Line or Belongs to SC/ST
2. Should undergo at least three ANC visits.
3. Age should be above 19 years.
4. First or second child only

Eligible Woman: Woman who fulfills the above criteria

RESULTS

Out of 3212 women 360 (11.20%) were eligible for getting the benefit of Janani Suraksha Yojana. Among the 360 only 118 (32.78%) women got the benefit of JSY while, 242 (67.22%) missed the opportunity of getting JSY benefit. Common reasons for not getting the benefit were lack of information of JSY(37.19%) followed by difficulty in getting the documents in time (25.62%) and not-filled in time by ANM (15.29%) (Table 1).

Table 1: Reasons of not getting the benefit of JSY among the eligible Women

Sr. No.	Reasons	Number	%
1	Lack of Information about JSY	90	37.19
2	Document were not available	62	25.62
3	JSY Form was not filled	37	15.29
4	JSY Information was received very late	22	9.09
5	Check up in private hospital so refused (by Health worker) to give JSY	14	5.79
6	Home Delivery	5	2.07
7	Delivery outside the area	4	1.65
8	Ignored as it is difficult to get any money in govt. sector	2	0.82
9	Refused to mention the reason	6	2.48
Total		242	100.00

25.35% women who delivered in private hospital received the JSY benefit while, 34.60% women got the benefit delivered in govt.

hospital but findings were not statistically significant. ($\chi^2 = 1.98$; $P > 0.05$) as shown in table 2.

Table 2: Comparison of JSY utilization in the eligible women delivered in Private & Govt. Hospitals

Type of Hospital	JSY Status		Total
	JSY Benefit Received (%)	JSY Benefit not Received (%)	
Private	18 (25.35)	53 (74.65)	71
Govt.	100 (34.60)	189 (65.40)	289
Total	118 (32.78)	242 (67.22)	360

DF=1, $\chi^2 = 1.98$; $P > 0.05$

DISCUSSION

In the present study only 32.78% eligible women got the assistance of JSY scheme in the delivery. But the Converge evaluation Survey of

Maharashtra ⁶ 2009, found that only 17.1 women got the assistance of JSY scheme. The findings were lower than the present study. But the awareness of JSY Scheme was found in 52.1% of

the women interviewed which was higher than the present study as 37.19% women were not aware of JSY scheme so missed from the benefit of JSY Scheme. 29.5% of women who delivered in private hospital received assistance of JSY was the finding noted in the 2009 coverage evaluation survey.⁶ Which was similar to present study (25.35%).

CONCLUSIONS

Lack of JSY information, difficulty in getting the documents fulfilled & filling the form at proper time were three common reasons in not getting the benefit of JSY. The % of beneficiaries (Who Got JSY benefit) was more in the women received ANC care / Delivery done in Govt. Hospitals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Intensive IEC activity should be conducted at individual level, family level & community level.
2. Flexibility in documents should be there as Caste certificate like document are very difficult to get in short period of time.
3. Private hospitals should be made mandatory to display the information of JSY & taking the form of JSY filled in correct time.
4. Health service provider should be made accountable if he/she not given the information at right time, not taken JSY

form filled at right time & also not helped the beneficiary for getting the certificates (documents) fulfilled at right time.

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